SARE
Sustainable Agriculture Research & Education

www.sare.org

What is SARE?

Since 1988, the Sustainable Agriculture Research & Education (SARE) program has been the go-to USDA grants and outreach program for farmers, ranchers, researchers and educators who want to develop innovations that improve farm profitability, protect water and land, and revitalize communities. To date, SARE has awarded over $8.2 million to more than 226 initiatives [1].

SARE is grassroots with far-reaching impact

Four regional councils of expert practitioners set priorities and make grants in every state and island protectorate.

SARE communicates results

SARE shares project results by requiring grantees to conduct outreach and grower engagement; and by maintaining an online library of practical publications, grantee-produced information products and other educational materials.

SARE: Advancing the Frontier of Sustainable Agriculture in...

Kansas

Project Highlight: *Testing Sustainable Strawberry Production Methods in Kansas*

Jonathon Conard of Tenth Street Orchard has been exploring a new approach to strawberry farming in Kansas with the help of a $5,898 NCR-SARE grant. He has been testing the combination of plasticulture and a matted-row system against traditional annual plasticulture methods.

Conrad tested a two-year strawberry production system, starting with plastic mulch in the first year and transitioning to matted rows in the second year. Within the second year, two treatments were compared: one in which all plants were retained with runners removed (crown treatment) and another in which plants were alternately removed, allowing runners to fill in (runner treatment). The study found that the crown treatment yielded the highest overall production and berry size. Soil organic matter remained consistent across treatments, and soil respiration and health scores improved over time, with the annual treatment showing the highest soil respiration by the end of the project.

Conrad says the combination production method could be beneficial for growers, especially during poor growing seasons, as it allows for recouping some investment in the second year. However, this method requires additional labor for summer weeding and row maintenance. The project also highlighted that strawberry varieties vary in their runner production, which can impact the effectiveness of the runner treatment. To manage exposed soil in areas with slow runner establishment, adding a light layer of straw mulch or delaying the removal of plastic mulch until later in the summer may help suppress weeds and reduce labor costs.

"The grant has been a learning experience that has had a positive impact on our operation. The data that has been collected has been useful to determine how our management practices are impacting soil health," said Conard.

For more information on this project, see sare.org/projects, and search for project number FNC21-1264.

SARE in Kansas

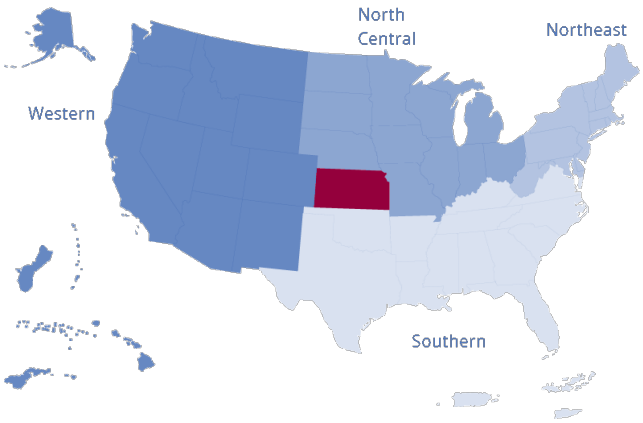
northcentral.sare.org/state-profiles/kansas/

$8,174,908 in total funding

226 grant projects

(since 1988 [1])

For a complete list of Kansas grant projects, go to projects.sare.org/state-fact-sheets/



[1] These totals reflect available data; complete information may not be available for all grant programs prior to 2016.

SARE in Kansas, 2021–2026

This is a summary of recent SARE-funded activities and impacts in the state. To search all SARE projects visit projects.sare.org. For a list of all projects in Kansas visit projects.sare.org/state-fact-sheets/.

Grants awarded

Total awards: **58 grants**

15	Farmer/Rancher
6	Research and Education
6	Professional Development Program
3	On Farm Research/Partnership
18	Graduate Student
6	Youth Educator
3	PDP State Program [2]
1	Meat and Poultry Processing

Total funding: **$3,679,915**

$290,362	Farmer/Rancher
$1,484,317	Research and Education
$610,333	Professional Development Program
$129,092	On Farm Research/Partnership
$304,924	Graduate Student
$30,897	Youth Educator
$419,990	PDP State Program [2]
$410,000	Meat and Poultry Processing

[2] The Professional Development Program (PDP) State Program is a non-competitive award that funds the activities of the state coordinator(s). See more below.

Farmer and rancher impacts

SARE grantees have reported the following impacts from their projects:

3,420 farmers participated in a SARE-funded project

287 farmers changed a practice

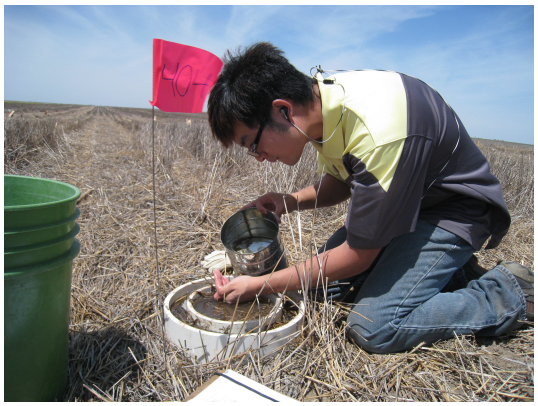


Photo credit: Courtesy Kansas State University

For a complete list of Kansas awards, visit:
projects.sare.org/state-fact-sheets/

Learn about local impacts at:
northcentral.sare.org/state-programs/kansas/

Contact Your SARE State Coordinator

SARE sustainable ag coordinators run state-level educational programs for Extension and other ag professionals, and many help grant applicants and recipients with planning and outreach. Visit northcentral.sare.org/state-profiles/kansas/ to learn more.

Kerri Ebert
K-State Research and Extension
(785) 330-5088
kebert@ksu.edu

SARE Sustainable Agriculture Research & Education

USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

SARE is funded by the USDA's National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA).