

## 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 \$7.3 million to more than 211 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: *Advancing Hemp Production in Kansas*

In 2018, the Kansas Legislature legalized the cultivation of industrial hemp. But growing hemp is challenging - from equipment and license requirements to managing markets and aphids. Still, several Kansas farmers are growing hemp and sharing their experiences with others.

The [Kansas Hemp Consortium](#) is a group of licensed hemp producers, processors, dryers, chemists, soil and water scientists, farmers, ranchers, and business developers interested in hemp-related businesses. They collect data on seed sourcing, genetics, planting dates and techniques, precipitation, fertilization, pest pressure, weed management, harvest techniques, yields, and plant characteristics.

In 2021, the Kansas Hemp Consortium started testing six hemp varieties with Kansas farmers in different growing climates and soil types across various parts of Kansas, with support from a SARE grant. In 2022, they received a second grant to provide farmers with recommended genetics, planting techniques, and guidance through changing regulations.

They share what they learn as they work to build a knowledge bank for hemp production in Kansas and the central plains. Their "[Kansas Industrial Hemp Planting Best Practices Guide](#)" includes information on regulations, seasonal timing, genetics, equipment, and environmental conditions.

"Today, little information is available for hemp producers to make decisions," said Sarah Stephens, President of the Kansas Hemp Consortium. "The farmers and respective farms involved in these projects hope to promote the growth of the industrial hemp industry in Kansas."

For more information on these projects, see [sare.org/projects](https://www.sare.org/projects), and search for project numbers [FNC21-1307](#) and [ONC22-105](#).

## SARE in Kansas

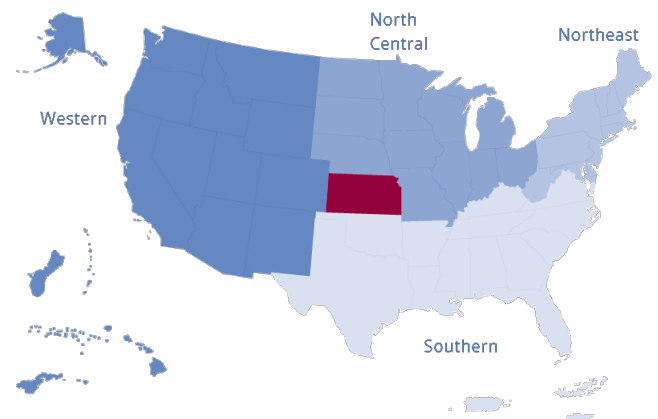
[northcentral.sare.org/state-profiles/kansas/](https://northcentral.sare.org/state-profiles/kansas/)

**\$7,256,970**  
**in total funding**

**211 grant projects**

(since 1988 [1])

For a complete list of grant projects state by state, go to [projects.sare.org/state-fact-sheets/](https://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, 2020–2025

This is a summary of recent SARE-funded activities and impacts in the state. To search all SARE projects visit [projects.sare.org](https://projects.sare.org). For a list of all projects in this state visit [projects.sare.org/state-fact-sheets/](https://projects.sare.org/state-fact-sheets/).

## Grants awarded

Total awards: **50 grants**

- 14 Farmer/Rancher
- 5 Research and Education
- 4 Professional Development Program
- 4 On Farm Research/Partnership
- 14 Graduate Student
- 5 Youth Educator
- 3 PDP State Program [2]
- 1 Meat and Poultry Processing

Total funding: **\$3,014,763**

- \$217,141 Farmer/Rancher
- \$1,151,973 Research and Education
- \$416,520 Professional Development Program
- \$168,675 On Farm Research/Partnership
- \$214,457 Graduate Student
- \$26,000 Youth Educator
- \$409,997 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.

For a complete list of awards by state, visit: [projects.sare.org/state-fact-sheets/](https://projects.sare.org/state-fact-sheets/)

## Farmer and rancher impacts

SARE grantees have reported the following impacts from their projects:

**2,911 farmers participated in a SARE-funded project**

**409 farmers reported a change in knowledge, awareness, skills or attitude**

**204 farmers changed a practice**

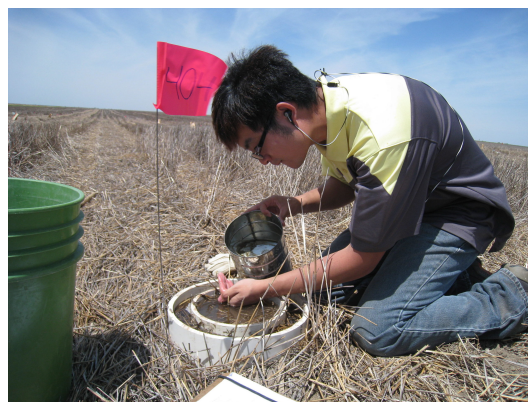


Photo credit: Courtesy Kansas State University

Learn about local impacts at: [northcentral.sare.org/state-programs/kansas/](https://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/](https://northcentral.sare.org/state-profiles/kansas/) to learn more.

Kerri Ebert  
Kansas State University  
(785) 330-5088  
[kebert@ksu.edu](mailto:kebert@ksu.edu)



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