

## 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 \$18.0 million to more than 407 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...

# Minnesota

Project Highlight: *Sustaining the Sugarbush in a Tribal Community*

Eric DuPuis has been running a sugarbush (a stand of sap trees) for more than 15 years as part of the Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa, an Anishinaabe band located near Cloquet, Minnesota. In addition to running a sugarbush, DuPuis works with Fond du Lac Tribal and Community College's Thirteen Moons program to increase awareness of natural resources, provide new opportunities for social interaction, and increase knowledge of the Ojibwe culture.

In 2019, DuPuis received SARE support so he could increase his sugarbush production, reduce the amount of fuel he was using to boil sap, and share information about making maple syrup with his Tribal community.

Making maple syrup from sap requires a lot of evaporation. Operators cook the sap at a steady rate until it reduces into syrup. The ratio of sap to syrup for the sugar maple is 40 to 1 (40 gallons of sap yields one gallon of syrup), so the amount of cooking time is significant. DuPuis updated his evaporating pans and filtration process and was able to increase the amount of syrup he made from 1 cord of wood from 15 gallons to 20 gallons. He decreased the amount of energy needed to produce syrup, both in terms of wood supply and labor needed to cut and haul wood.

DuPuis wanted to share the process of starting a sugarbush operation with his community. Through workshops, community members learned how to identify maple trees during the winter months, tapping techniques, how to install and maintain a tubing system, boil sap, make sugar, make candy, and finish syrup.

"One family became involved with the sugarbush workshops from the beginning," said Dupuis. "Most participants are single participants, however, this group was a family that included their 11-year-old daughter. Their participation was a great example of community participation."

For more information on this project, see [sare.org/projects](https://sare.org/projects), and search for project number [FNC19-1160](https://sare.org/projects).

## SARE in Minnesota

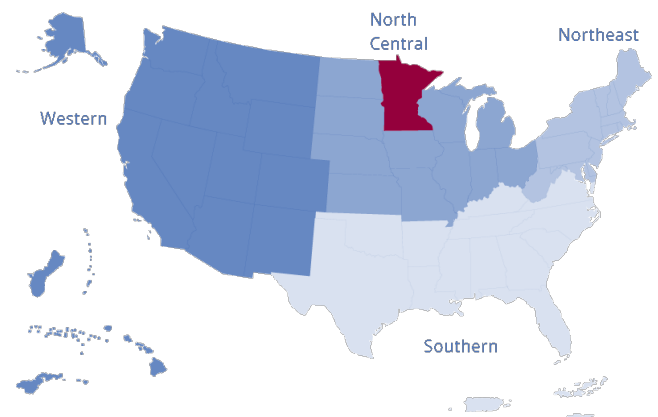
[northcentral.sare.org/state-profiles/minnesota/](https://northcentral.sare.org/state-profiles/minnesota/)

**\$17,982,244**  
**in total funding**

**407 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 Minnesota, 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: **103 grants**

- 45 Farmer/Rancher
- 10 Research and Education
- 9 Professional Development Program
- 13 On Farm Research/Partnership
- 9 Graduate Student
- 13 Youth Educator
- 3 PDP State Program [2]
- 1 Community Foods Project

Total funding: **\$5,656,820**

- \$768,304 Farmer/Rancher
- \$2,486,166 Research and Education
- \$786,371 Professional Development Program
- \$506,879 On Farm Research/Partnership
- \$139,070 Graduate Student
- \$65,550 Youth Educator
- \$410,000 PDP State Program [2]
- \$494,480 Community Foods Project

[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:

**7,884 farmers participated in a SARE-funded project**

**1,289 farmers reported a change in knowledge, awareness, skills or attitude**

**618 farmers changed a practice**



Photo credit: David L. Hansen, University of Minnesota

Learn about local impacts at: [northcentral.sare.org/state-programs/minnesota/](https://northcentral.sare.org/state-programs/minnesota/)

## 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/minnesota/](https://northcentral.sare.org/state-profiles/minnesota/) to learn more.

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