

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 \$9.0 million to more than 212 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...

Nebraska

Project Highlight: *Replacing Summer Fallow with Grain-type Field Peas in Semiarid Cropping Systems*

As farmers in western Nebraska face higher cash rents and property taxes, many want a more profitable, sustainable alternative to fallow for crop rotation. Strahinja Stepanovic, a University of Nebraska Lincoln Extension educator, received a SARE grant to find suitable crops for the mix.

Farmers in the High Plains are starting to use spring-planted pulse crops, like chickpeas, lentils, and field peas, instead of summer fallow. This change can help improve soil health and diversify crops while better managing weather and market fluctuations. However, many Nebraska farmers are hesitant to adopt pulse crops due to a lack of local markets and research on growing them in their specific conditions.

With support from SARE, Strahinja Stepanovic, an Extension educator at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln (UNL), organized a team of researchers and farmers to develop best agronomic practices for growing field peas and to encourage their adoption among farmers. Stepanovic observed that before 2013, farmers in the Nebraska Panhandle cultivated only 10,000 to 20,000 acres of field peas. However, between 2014 and 2018, as farmers became more familiar with field peas through research and outreach efforts led by Stepanovic and others, the acreage increased to 70,000 and expanded into central and eastern Nebraska. Production is expected to continue to grow.

Farmers may report gains of \$50 per acre, depending on the year. This represents a significant improvement compared to the \$40 to \$90 per acre expenses associated with spraying herbicides for weed control in fallow fields. In Nebraska, there are three pea processors and around eight seed companies, making it easier to obtain high-quality seeds and market them effectively.

For more information on this project, see sare.org/projects, and search for project number **ONC16-021**.

SARE in Nebraska

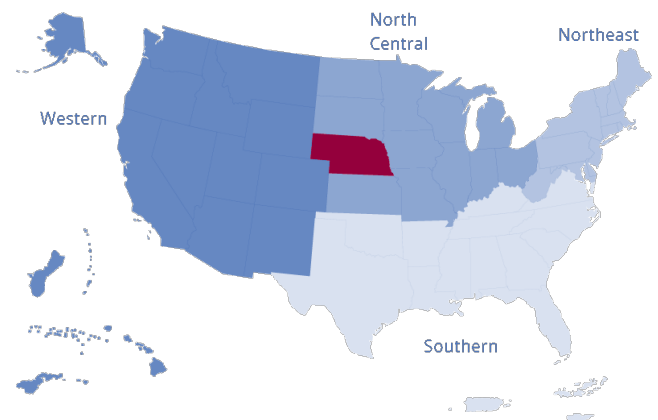
northcentral.sare.org/state-profiles/nebraska/

\$8,994,889
in total funding

212 grant projects

(since 1988 [1])

For a complete list of grant projects state by state, 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 Nebraska, 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. For a list of all projects in this state visit projects.sare.org/state-fact-sheets/.

Grants awarded

Total awards: **37 grants**

- 11 Farmer/Rancher
- 6 Research and Education
- 2 Professional Development Program
- 6 On Farm Research/Partnership
- 8 Graduate Student
- 3 PDP State Program [2]
- 1 Youth Educator

Total funding: **\$2,432,087**

\$187,158	Farmer/Rancher
\$1,313,128	Research and Education
\$142,000	Professional Development Program
\$251,956	On Farm Research/Partnership
\$121,972	Graduate Student
\$410,000	PDP State Program [2]
\$5,873	Youth Educator

[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/

Farmer and rancher impacts

SARE grantees have reported the following impacts from their projects:

6,578 farmers participated in a SARE-funded project

661 farmers reported a change in knowledge, awareness, skills or attitude

231 farmers changed a practice



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

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/nebraska/ to learn more.

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