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 $10.3 million to more than 223 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: *Nebraska Ranch Enhances Winter Livestock Feeding with Fodder System*

Bill and Rebecca Alward of Little Mountain Ranch and Garden LLC in southeastern Nebraska are reevaluating their approach to feeding livestock through the winter. With help from a $14,307 NCR-SARE Farmer Rancher grant, they set up a small-scale fodder system to grow fresh, nutrient-rich feed on-site. Designed to cut winter feed costs and boost nutritional quality for their hogs and cattle, the system offers a low-cost, high-impact way to keep animals healthy when pasture isn't an option.

The Alwards operate a diversified farm on 16.5 acres, producing forest-raised pork, grassfed beef, lamb, pastured poultry, eggs, mushrooms, and vegetables. They began winter farrowing hogs and wintering cattle, and facing rising costs for grain and hay, they sought a more sustainable winter feed solution.

The Alwards installed a heated indoor fodder system to sprout grains like wheat, rye, and triticale. They found that a 50-pound bag of seed yielded approximately 180 pounds of nutrient-dense fodder, providing a cost-effective supplement to their livestock's winter diet. The system requires approximately one hour of labor per day and occupies less storage space than traditional hay bales, making it suitable for small-scale operations.

Wheat and rye were found to be the most effective grains for fodder production, offering high germination rates, yield, and palatability for both hogs and cattle. Prior to the fodder system, cattle were fed alfalfa hay at $8 per 50-pound bale. With the fodder system, weekly supplementation costs increased to $102, including $28 for alfalfa and $73.50 for fodder. However, the daily inclusion of fodder improved feed efficiency and reduced hay consumption.

For more information on this project, see sare.org/projects, and search for project number FNC22-1317.

SARE in Nebraska

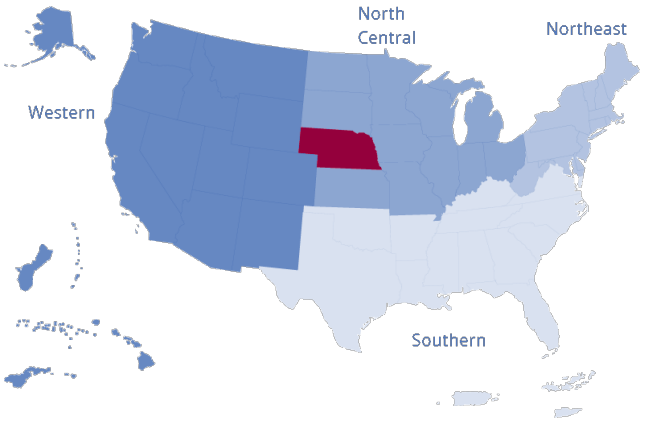
northcentral.sare.org/state-profiles/nebraska/

$10,346,569 in total funding

223 grant projects

(since 1988 [1])

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

Grants awarded

Total awards: **41 grants**

9	Farmer/Rancher
9	Research and Education
7	Professional Development Program
4	On Farm Research/Partnership
7	Graduate Student
3	PDP State Program [2]
2	Youth Educator

Total funding: **$3,648,548**

$169,160	Farmer/Rancher
$2,012,590	Research and Education
$738,234	Professional Development Program
$172,050	On Farm Research/Partnership
$124,655	Graduate Student
$419,986	PDP State Program [2]
$11,873	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.

Farmer and rancher impacts

SARE grantees have reported the following impacts from their projects:

6,408 farmers participated in a SARE-funded project

161 farmers changed a practice



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

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 Sustainable Agriculture Research & Education

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