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: *Identifying High-Performing Summer Forages in the Nebraska Sandhills*

Nebraska ranchers face a tough challenge each July. Peak summer heat slows down cool-season pastures, creating a "summer slump" in cattle feed.

To address this, Roger Licking of LickingAg teamed up with four neighboring ranchers: Kevin Anderson, Gary Helmer, Rich Russell, and Pat Schumacher. Together, they manage 22,500 acres of native rangeland and 2,200 acres of irrigated land across five counties in North-Central Nebraska.

Backed by a $29,978 NCR-SARE Farmer Rancher Grant, the group launched six on-farm trials over two years. Their goal was to stabilize summer beef production while protecting the fragile soils of the Nebraska Sandhills.

The ranchers tested nine warm-season forage varieties and multi-species mixes against their standard practices. These included hybrid pearl millet, BMR sorghums, and forage corn. Using georeferenced plots, the team carefully tracked plant growth and protein levels. They also measured soil pH, microbial activity, and nutrient losses during hay harvests.

The project highlighted the value of farmer-led research and peer-to-peer education by sharing local trial results through field days, winter meetings, and the newly formed North Central Nebraska Forage Production Group.

For more information on this project, see sare.org/projects and search for project number FNC24-1425.

## SARE in Nebraska

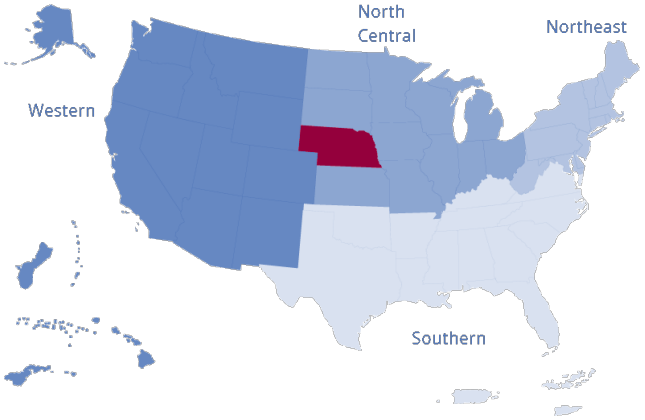
northcentral.sare.org/state-profiles/nebraska/

**$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.

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

## Farmer and rancher impacts

SARE grantees have reported the following impacts from their projects:

**6,904 farmers participated in a SARE-funded project**

**191 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 Sustainable Agriculture Research & Education

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