

## 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 \$16.2 million to more than 424 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...

# Wisconsin

### Project Highlight: *Hybrid Tractor Combines Efficiency and Reliability*

Robert Braun of Pigeon River Farm in Clintonville, Wisconsin, is putting a modern twist on classic farm equipment. With a \$14,957 NCR-SARE Farmer Rancher grant, Braun and collaborator Brian Buckta developed a hybrid dual-fuel Farmall M tractor that combines the fuel savings of electric power with the reliability of gasoline. They outfitted it with a Warp 9 electric motor, 144-volt industrial batteries, a custom speed governor, dual-belt pulley system, and real-time performance sensors.

Early tests have shown promising results. For example, fence trimming costs just \$0.90 per session using grid power—compared to \$9.00 for gasoline—with even greater savings when using solar energy. The hybrid system also handles heavier tasks, such as raking hay, with reduced operational costs and increased efficiency. Additionally, the electric-powered tractor operates more quietly than a standard Farmall M.

“The journey through this SARE grant project has been enlightening and transformative for our farm operation,” said Braun. “These learnings are not just pivotal for our operation but also hold valuable insight for the broader farming community, emphasizing the role of grants like SARE in fostering innovation and collective growth in sustainable agriculture.”

For more information on this project, see [sare.org/projects](http://sare.org/projects), and search for project number **FNC23-1363**.

## SARE in Wisconsin

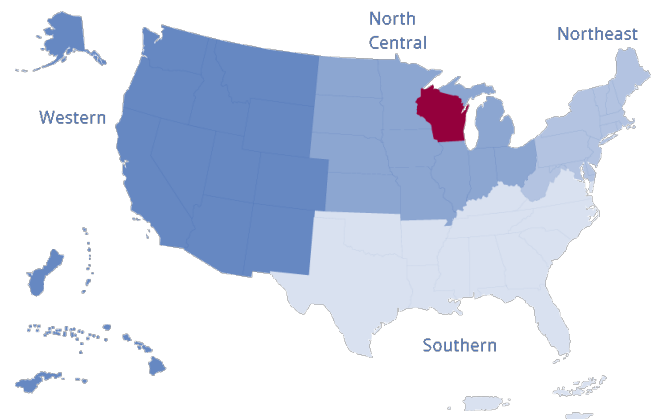
[northcentral.sare.org/state-profiles/wisconsin/](http://northcentral.sare.org/state-profiles/wisconsin/)

**\$16,152,692**  
**in total funding**

**424 grant projects**

(since 1988 [1])

For a complete list of Wisconsin grant projects, go to [projects.sare.org/state-fact-sheets/](http://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 Wisconsin, 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 Wisconsin visit [projects.sare.org/state-fact-sheets/](https://projects.sare.org/state-fact-sheets/).

## Grants awarded

Total awards: **116 grants**

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

Total funding: **\$5,600,592**

- \$730,048 Farmer/Rancher
- \$2,279,439 Research and Education
- \$880,062 Professional Development Program
- \$981,071 On Farm Research/Partnership
- \$284,519 Graduate Student
- \$35,453 Youth Educator
- \$410,000 PDP State Program [2]

[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 Wisconsin awards, 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:

**21,764 farmers participated in a SARE-funded project**

**4,650 farmers reported a change in knowledge, awareness, skills or attitude**

**969 farmers changed a practice**



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

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

Diane Mayerfeld  
University of Wisconsin Madison  
(608) 262-8188  
[dbmayerfeld@wisc.edu](mailto:dbmayerfeld@wisc.edu)

Emily Proctor  
(231) 439-8927  
[proctor8@msu.edu](mailto:proctor8@msu.edu)



National Institute of Food and Agriculture  
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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