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 $17.1 million to more than 436 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: *Quality Forage with Alfalfa-Corn Silage Intercropping*

Sixth-generation dairy farmer Adam Hurtgen milks 160 cows at Hurtgenlea Holsteins in Elkhorn, Wisconsin. To him, protecting natural resources is just as important as feeding his herd. To fight soil erosion and rising feed costs, Hurtgen turned a 4.4-acre plot into a living laboratory. Backed by a $14,355 SARE Farmer-Rancher grant, he partnered with crop advisers, engineers, and university researchers to test a single-pass system that intercropped alfalfa with corn silage.

The multi-year trial compared traditional corn and standalone alfalfa against intercropped rows. The results showed that Hurtgen could grow high-quality forage while conserving resources. First-year silage yields in 30-inch intercropped rows matched traditional corn controls. Feed quality also stayed high across all systems, averaging 3,585 pounds of milk per ton of forage. Even after heavy harvest traffic, the alfalfa beneath the corn canopy rebounded in the fall. During heavy rain, this continuous living cover kept the soil in place and reduced nutrient runoff.

Hurtgen shared four key tips for farmers trying this system: wait for dry spring planting conditions, adjust equipment manually, check cutter bar heights to protect alfalfa crowns, and time second-year suppression carefully.

Hurtgen has shared his findings with over 260 peers at events like the World Dairy Expo.

To learn more about this project, visit sare.org/projects and search for grant number FNC23-1380.

SARE in Wisconsin

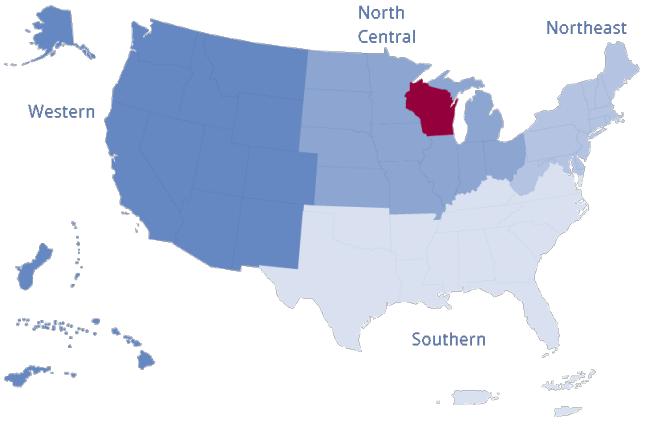
northcentral.sare.org/state-profiles/wisconsin/

$17,132,025 in total funding

436 grant projects

(since 1988 [1])

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

Grants awarded

Total awards: **112 grants**

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

Total funding: **$5,774,073**

$706,524	Farmer/Rancher
$2,385,370	Research and Education
$943,588	Professional Development Program
$1,010,250	On Farm Research/Partnership
$272,899	Graduate Student
$35,453	Youth Educator
$419,989	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.

Farmer and rancher impacts

SARE grantees have reported the following impacts from their projects:

23,832 farmers participated in a SARE-funded project

1,885 farmers changed a practice



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

Learn about local impacts at:
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/ to learn more.

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SARE Sustainable Agriculture Research & Education

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