

## SARE: Advancing the Frontier of Sustainable Agriculture in...

# California

### Project Highlight: *Nitrogen-Management Tools Position Limited-Resource Farmers for Success*

**M**anaging nitrogen (N) effectively helps farmers raise a high-quality crop, avoid wasting dollars and protect water quality. Yet in the highly productive Salinas Valley of Monterey County, many farmers who use organic practices lack complete information on effective N management. This is particularly true of beginning farmers and those who have a language barrier or otherwise have limited access to support services. Organic agriculture is booming in Monterey County: organic sales volume was \$151 million in 2012. Ensuring that all organic growers have the best opportunity to succeed in a lucrative market was the motivation behind the Agriculture and Land-Based Training Association's (ALBA) SARE grant.

ALBA collaborated with experienced farmers and Extension specialists to hold workshops on organic N management and on-farm research principles. It also provided in-depth, bilingual training and support to nine beginning farmers participating in its incubator program. ALBA's grant allowed 500 growers and educators to benefit from workshops and publications focused on N management, and 91 percent of surveyed farmers reported adopting at least one new practice. By improving their knowledge on the subject and integrating new practices, the growers have positioned themselves for success.

For more information on this project, see [www.sare.org/projects](http://www.sare.org/projects), and search for project number OW13-062.

### SARE in California

[www.westernsare.org/california](http://www.westernsare.org/california)

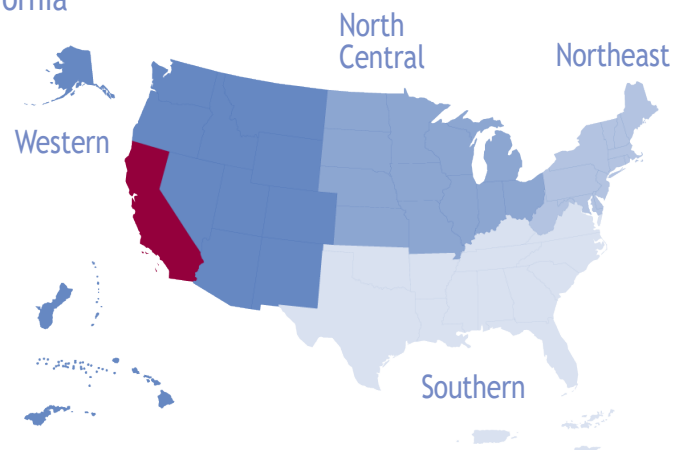
**\$11.4 million in total funding**

**194 grant projects**

(since 1988)

For a complete list of grant projects state by state, go to

[www.sare.org/state-summaries](http://www.sare.org/state-summaries)



SARE's four regional programs and outreach office work to advance sustainable innovations to the whole of American agriculture.

### 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 \$287 million to more than 7,000 initiatives.

### 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 the SARE Learning Center—a library of practical publications, grantee-produced information products and other educational materials.

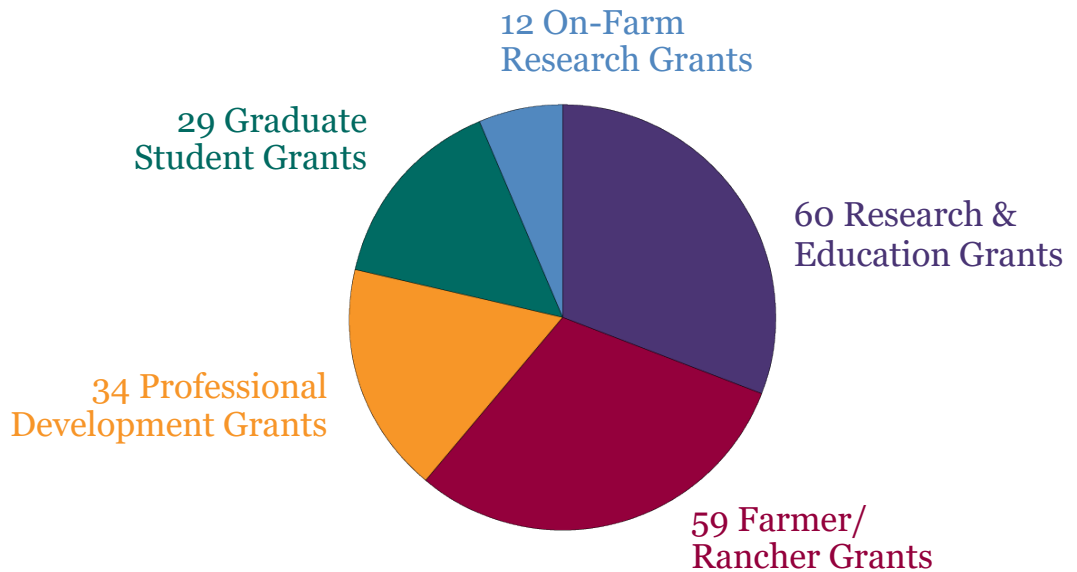


**Sustainable Agriculture Research & Education**

[www.sare.org](http://www.sare.org)

# SARE Grants in California

SARE has awarded a total of **194 grants** in California since 1988



## SARE's Impact



**53 percent** of producers report using a new production technique after reading a SARE publication.

**79 percent** of producers said they improved soil quality through their SARE project.

**64 percent** of producers said their SARE project helped them achieve higher sales.

## 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 [www.westernsare.org/california](http://www.westernsare.org/california) to learn more.

Sonja Brodt  
University of California, Davis  
(530)754-8547  
sbbrodt@ucdavis.edu

Jeffrey Stackhouse  
UCCE Livestock Advisor  
(707) 445-7351  
jwstackhouse@ucanr.edu



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

For detailed information on SARE projects, go to [www.SARE.org](http://www.SARE.org)