

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

# Georgia

## 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)

## Project Highlight: *Wildflower Plots Boost Yields and Pollinators*

The extensive loss in managed honeybee hives seen in recent years poses serious challenges to the farmers who grow crops that require pollination. Lower yields and higher pollination costs are the main threats to their businesses. Part of the solution is native bees. Across the country, far-sighted researchers and farmers are recognizing the importance of finding practices that increase native bee populations before a larger crisis hits.

In Georgia, one such farmer, Joe Dickey, has used two SARE grants to study the native bees present in his apple orchards and to establish wildflower plots that support their numbers. The effect on his apple crop was immediate: In 2016, apple production rose 30 percent from the previous two years when the wildflowers were absent from his orchard. Dickey's next step is to

compare annual wildflowers to perennial wildflowers to see which type is best at recruiting native bees.

At the same time, Dickey has been collaborating with Georgia Gwinnett College researcher Mark Schlueter on a series of five SARE grants to identify which native bees are best at pollinating apples. After looking at dozens of species, Schlueter discovered a mining bee that outshines the rest as an apple pollinator which farmers should prioritize.

For more information on these projects, see [www.sare.org/projects](http://www.sare.org/projects), and search for project numbers FS16-290 and FS17-296.

## SARE in Georgia

[www.southernsare.org/georgia](http://www.southernsare.org/georgia)

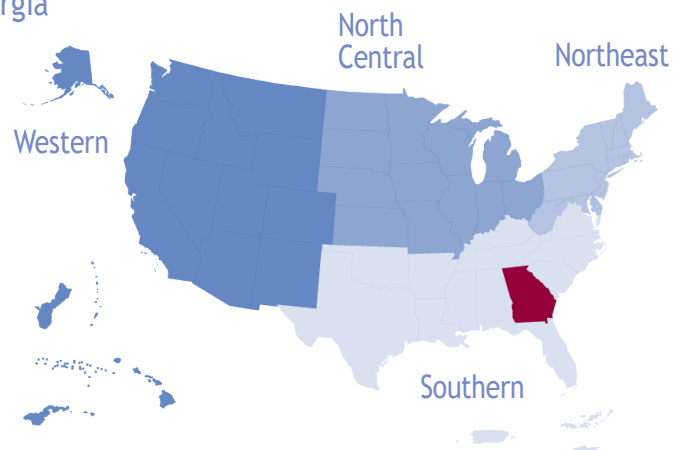
**\$9.7 million in total funding**

**125 grant projects**

(since 1988)

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

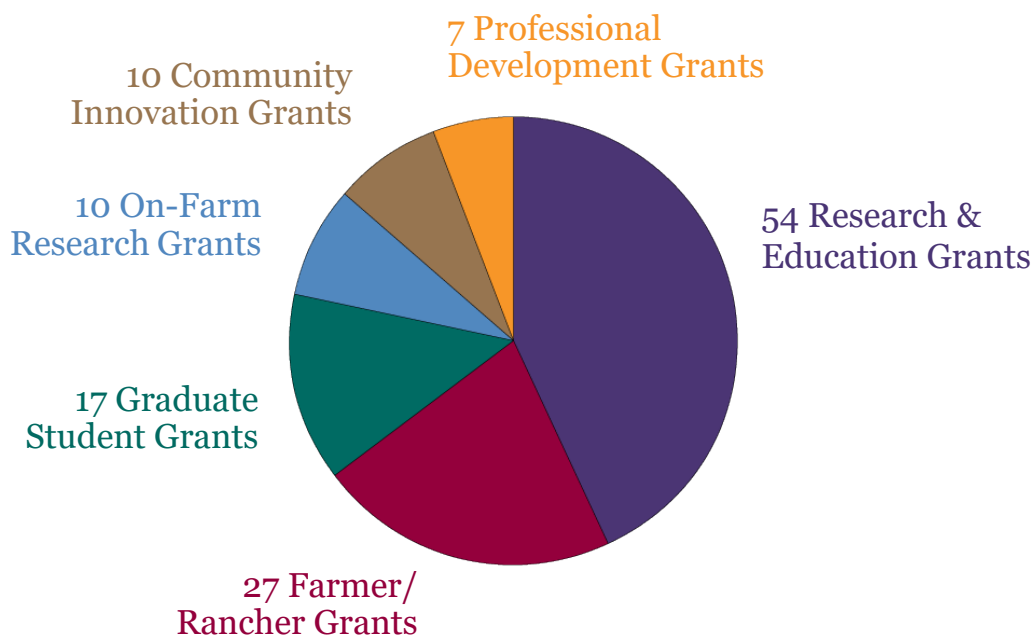
[www.sare.org/state-summaries](http://www.sare.org/state-summaries)



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

# SARE Grants in Georgia

SARE has  
awarded a  
total of  
**125 grants**  
in Georgia  
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.southernsare.org/georgia](http://www.southernsare.org/georgia) to learn more.

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