

April 15th, 2026

The Honorable John Hoeven  
Chair  
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on  
Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and  
Drug Administration, and Related Agencies  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Jeanne Shaheen  
Ranking Member  
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on  
Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and  
Drug Administration, and Related Agencies  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Andy Harris, M.D.  
Chair  
House Appropriations Subcommittee on  
Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and  
Drug Administration, and Related Agencies  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Sanford D. Bishop, Jr.  
Ranking Member  
House Appropriations Subcommittee on  
Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and  
Drug Administration, and Related Agencies  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Hoeven, Ranking Member Shaheen, Chairman Harris, Ranking Member Bishop:

The undersigned food, farm, conservation, and rural organizations appreciate your commitment to continued investment in the Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE) program. As you work to develop agriculture appropriations legislation for fiscal year (FY) 2027, we write to highlight the importance of continued investment in agriculture research and to urge your support for increasing SARE funding to \$60 million.

Administered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA), SARE has been a leader in addressing key sustainability challenges facing agriculture for nearly 40 years and remains USDA's only farmer-driven research program. **Farmers and ranchers are at the center of everything SARE does**, and because of this the program has spurred the creation of more innovative farm practices than any other competitive agricultural research program. Farmers and ranchers not only help develop SARE priorities and select competitive grants to be funded, they are also recipients of the majority of SARE grants. Each year, roughly 550 farmers and ranchers across the U.S. lead or participate in SARE grants where they are testing new methods of production on their farms and ranches, helping improve their bottom-line profitability.

All SARE projects address sustainability and focus on land stewardship, improving farmer profitability, and quality of life. SARE provides grants directly to producers, which removes the financial risk of testing new ideas for making their operations more economically viable, productive, and sustainable. This funding enables farmers to test out new ideas and practices on a small scale that, once successful, can be implemented on larger operations. SARE projects include emerging market opportunities, farm business planning, livestock health, soil quality and health, and using cover crops; to name a few. The program's continued emphasis on

practical, in-field research, farmer-to-farmer knowledge sharing, and farmer-researcher collaboration ensures that its research priorities respond to the challenges that farmers and ranchers face every day.

SARE also provides grants, training, and resources to agriculture professionals to build their knowledge and skills through its Professional Development Program. This includes professionals from the Cooperative Extension Service and USDA. For years, SARE has supported graduate students, helping establish the pipeline of future agricultural scientists who are needed to make the next breakthroughs in agriculture.

Over its long history, **SARE has awarded over \$489 million across nearly 10,000 initiatives** focusing on farmer-led research and education in every state across the country. Yet, despite SARE's long-standing record of helping farmers and ranchers develop and adopt innovative practices and systems, the program has yet to reach its full authorization of \$60 million. **According to SARE's 2025-2026 Biannual Report, 60% of eligible farmer/rancher grant proposals go unfunded.** Without increased investments, farmers will not be able to meet future productivity challenges and remain competitive, and they will lack the easily accessible and regionally appropriate research that they need to develop sustainable and resilient farming systems.

In light of this, ***we support full funding for SARE at its authorized level of \$60 million for FY 2027.*** This funding will boost research in soil health, increase farmer profitability, and help rural communities thrive.

We thank you for your strong support of SARE and efforts to increase SARE funding in previous years, as well as your continued support for our nation's farmers.

Sincerely,

## Organizations

Agricultural Justice Project

American Society of Agronomy

Agriculture and Land-Based Training Association

Appalachian Sustainable Development

Alabama Sustainable Agriculture Network (ASAN)

C.A.S.A. del Llano

California Certified Organic Farmers

Alaska Food Policy Council

California Climate and Agriculture Network

American Seed Trade Association

California FarmLink

Carbon180	Friends of the Mississippi River
Carolina Farm Stewardship Association	GrassWorks
Catholic Rural Life	Grow Pittsburgh
Center for Rural Affairs	Illinois Stewardship Alliance
Chicago Food Policy Action Council	Indiana Sportsmen Roundtable
Clean Wisconsin	Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy
Climate Land Leaders	Interfaith Sustainable Food Collaborative
Colorado State University	Izaak Walton League of America
Common Grain Alliance	Kansas Black Farmers Association
Community Alliance with Family Farmers	Kansas Rural Center
Community Involved in Sustaining Agriculture (CISA)	Land Stewardship Project
Crop Science Society of America	Louisiana Small-Scale Agriculture Coalition
Cultivate Kansas City	Mahina Mele Farms LLC
Dakota Rural Action	Maine Farmland Trust
Ecological Farming Association	Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association
Entomological Society of America	Marbleseed
Farm Aid	Material Institute
Farm School NYC (FSNYC)	Michael Fields Agricultural Institute
Farm to Table - New Mexico	Michigan Food & Farming Systems (MIFFS)
Florida Organic Growers	Michigan Organic Food and Farm Alliance (MOFFA)
Food Animal Concerns Trust (FACT)	Missouri Coalition for the Environment
Food As Health Care Coalition	Montana Organic Association
FoodCorps	National Farmers Union
Friends of the Fox River	

National Organic Coalition	Pesticide Action and Agroecology Network (PAN)
National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition	Pinnacle Prevention
National Wildlife Federation	Practical Farmers of Iowa (PFI)
Nebraska Sustainable Agriculture Society	PrairieEarth Farm
New Connecticut Farmer Alliance (NCTFA)	Rhode Island Food Policy Council
New Entry Sustainable Farming Project	Rural Action
New Mexico Food & Agriculture Policy Council	Rural Advancement Foundation International
Northeast Organic Dairy Producers Alliance (NODPA)	Savanna Institute
Northeast Organic Farming Association of New Jersey (NOFA-NJ)	Soil and Water Conservation Society (SWCS)
Northeast Organic Farming Association of Vermont (NOFA-VT)	Soil Science Society of America
Northern Plains Sustainable Agriculture Society	Soulaani Environmental Alliance
Northwest Center for Alternatives to Pesticides	Sprout
Nourish Colorado	Synergistic Hawaii Agriculture Council
Ohio Ecological Food and Farm Association (OEFFA)	Syracuse-Onondaga Food Systems Alliance
Oregon Climate and Agriculture Network	Tennessee Local Food
Oregon Tilth	The Kerr Center for Sustainable Agriculture
Organic Farmers Association	The Land Conservancy of McHenry County
Organic Farming Research Foundation	The Land Institute
Organic Seed Alliance	The National Center for Appropriate Technology
Pasa Sustainable Agriculture	The National Center for Frontier Communities
PCRG	Union of Concerned Scientists

Virginia Association for Biological Farming (VABF)

Wasatch Community Gardens

Wild Farm Alliance

Wisconsin Farmers Union (WFU)

Wolfe's Neck Center for Agriculture & the Environment (WNC)

Women, Food and Agriculture Network (WFAN)

Woodlyn Acres Farm LLC

Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation

### **Farmers and Businesses**

Ackerman Certified Organic Farm

Arcadian Fields Organic Farm

Beaverland Farms LLC

Beech Grove Farm

BioWay farm

Blumenberry Farms

Bondolio Olive Oil

Calyx Ag, LLC

Casey Dairy Farm

Cheesewright Farms

Common Good Farm

Cross Island Farms

Deep Roots Ranch

Dyreby Family Organic Farm

Faucette & Son

Ferrari Ranch

FiddleCliff Farms

Fiddlers Blues Farm

Floyd's View Farm

Full Belly Farm

Gianforte Farm LLC

Goodfoot Farm

Green Gulch Farm

Green Things Farm Collective

Greentree Naturals

Handy Hills Farm

Harpeth Moon Farm LLC

Hayhurst Valley Organic Farm & Nursery

Helsing Junction Farm

Henosis LLC

Hickory Hill Farm	Rosmann Family Farms
J and G Olson Farms	Rude Becky Farm
JL Acres LLC	Schmidt Family Farms LLC
Kanalani Ohana Farm	Schueler Farms Inc
Kim Powell	Seibel Organic Dairy
Laughing Earth	Seven Springs Farm
Lily Lake Organic Farm	Shaker View Farm
Little Paradise Farm	Singing Cedars Farmstead
Martha Jennings Farms, LLC	Star Creek Organic
mckenzie family farms	Stardust Market Garden
MG Farms	Sublime Organics LLC
Mill Gap Farms	Sunset Farm
Mudcollege Farm LLC	Syggelekokle Farm LLC
Nick's Organic Farm	The Common Milkweed
Nightshade Farm & Flowers	The Cushman Farm
Oak Nut Farm	Three Brothers Farm, LLC
Oak Top Farm	Too Tall Farm & Nursery
Okoboji Organics	Whitestone Mountain Orchard
One Straw Farm	Whitewater Ranch, LLC
Quince Essential LLC	Wild Rose Goat Works (WRGW)
Rains and Sun Hilltop Farm	Yellow Stonehousefarmcsa@gmail.com
River Queen Greens	Abanitu Organics
Robertson's Royal Farmland	Armagh Creamery
Root Mass Farm	Barcelo Gardens Fresh Market

Bluebird Grain Farms

BlueStem Organic Feed Mill

Broadfork Farm, LLC

Clay Hill

Clean Food Farm

Cold Brook Farm

Crystal Spring Farm

Empowered Flowers

Endigo's Herbals & Organics

Esperanza Farm

fireflymaine@yahoo.com

Fort Hill Farm LLC

Fresh Starts Organic Farm

Frosty Morning Farm

Gateway Farm Hub

Green Spark Farm

Hop N Hen Farm LLC

Ironwood Farm

Little Broom Farm

Little Pond Farm

MoSo Farm

Patchwork Green Farm

Saunderstown Garlic Farm

TerraSol Organics

Trouvaille Farm

Jubilee Justice

ColorBlindWork | People. Plants. Purpose.

Croft Market

Ethos Farm To Health

Food Strong

Gather and Grow Farm

Knife & Plow LLC

Latham Avocados

Petrocco Farms, Inc.

Robert King Farm

Winter Green Farm

Organic Planet LLC