

NORTH DAKOTA SARE 2010 REPORT

Advisors for the program in 2010 included Chris Boerboom, Hans Kandel, Craig Askim, Brad Brummond, Bill Smith, Willie Huot, Mark Hamley, Karri Stroh, Linda Grotberg, and Tom Hanson. Meetings were held in March and December to help integrate the program with SARE grant funded projects and other Extension activities. Outreach to Tribal College Extension programs was also planned.

Outreach in order to promote the SARE program in North Dakota included:

- Updates and rescue of North Dakota SARE website
- Forwarding SARE news releases across the Dakotas
- Answering emails and telephone calls concerning SARE grant and information opportunities
- Answering emails and telephone calls concerning SARE grant applications
- Assistance to Northern Plains Sustainable Agriculture Society Programming Committee
- Assistance to Food Shed Symposium Planning Group (Minnesota and North Dakota)
- SARE exhibit and presentations on Biotechnology and No-Till Gardening at NPSAS Winter Conference in Watertown, South Dakota
- SARE exhibit at the North Dakota Farmers Market Growers Association meeting in Jamestown
- SARE and gardening presentations at growers meeting on Standing Rock reservation with Sue Isbell and Aubrey Skye
- SARE and gardening presentations at growers meeting at Turtle Mountain Community College with Mark Hamley and Michelle Short-Azure
- SARE discussion with Rachel Brazil, the new Land Grant Director at Cankdeska Cikana Community College
- Discussions and visits about SARE and sustainable ag demonstrations at Fort Berthold Community College with Mary Fredericks, Adam Guy, James Garrett
- Presentation about new 4H Soil Health Activity Box at NDSU Extension Spring Conference
- No-till garden presentation at Garden Expo in Bismarck
- Radio spot about sustainable agriculture with talk show in Fargo
- Visits with FRG awardee Pat Frank about his cover crop project
- Visit with web journalist about sustainable agriculture in North Dakota
- Organic crop and soil management presentations to NRCS staff in Fargo, Bismarck, and Minot -during workshops organized by Karri Stroh of FARRMS
- SARE presentations to Farm Credit Services staff at DREC
- Used SARE bulletins in Principles of Crop Production course at DSU
- Began posting YouTube videos about sustainable agriculture in North Dakota (<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k8XA5foZ0iE>;
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=twOh1xSDRsM>;
- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7FEIP4Wwuf0>)
- Began passing out SARE books to educators

- SARE representative at North and South Dakota Extension meeting about working with reservation communities; passed out SARE bulletins
- SARE display, grant presentation, and handouts to Marketplace of Ideas workshops at four reservations with assistance of Marilyn Kipp
- Presentation with Hans Kandel at NDSU Extension fall conference about on farm research; handed out SARE bulletins
- Shared SARE bulletins with North Dakota state legislature representatives

Cover crops are of intense interest right now in North Dakota, largely due to 1) work done at Carrington with SARE funds 20 years ago and work done by ARS in Mandan at about the same time, 2) intensely interested NRCS and SCD staff, and 3) an active group of very innovative farmers and ranchers in Central North Dakota. The ND SARE program has expanded Extension participation in the further development of this management tool and allowed farmers from other regions of the state to see cover crops in place by paying for small demonstration projects across the state in the summer of 2010. A cover crops seedlings identification bulletin is now in the works to aid farmers using cover crops. An unexpected outcome was the enthusiasm for this project which infected one Extension Agent who found local funds to use for a similar demonstration. That preliminary demonstration was the seed for the cover crops initiative for 2011 which will expand cover crops experience and soil health understanding into northeastern North Dakota, where relatively little work on soil health or cover cropping has been carried out. A similar if much larger demonstration format will be used with a strong focus on professional development.

Five NDSU Extension agents attended SARE sponsored luncheons and tours at the NACAA meeting in Oklahoma in July, 2010. They learned new information about sustainable agriculture, SARE, and their peers at the Oklahoma meeting. Upon return, the five agents met with the State Coordinator for discussions concerning a new working group for the North Dakota Association of Extension Agents and several joined the advisory council for the SARE program. They wrote sustainable agriculture programming into their plans of work for 2011 and highlighted sustainability issues in the state plans at the fall Extension conference.

Seven educators representing local foods stakeholders were the target audience for the Scaling Up Local Foods Regional Training held in Wisconsin in September. The short term outcomes were to increase knowledge of structures and process necessary to scale up a local food system and to increase contacts with other local foods educators in the region. Intermediate outcomes included a team of seven educators from North Dakota with the expertise to provide professional development training, to actively share information among stakeholders in the state and region, and to plan to help scale up local food systems. These educators have cooperated with others to form a Scaling Up Local Foods Team in North Dakota which has organized and put on a Scaling Up Local Foods Symposium in Fargo in May, 2011.

In October SDSU and NDSU Extension held a conference at Fort Yates, ND for a workshop on how to more effectively work with Native Americans in the two states. The North Dakota SARE Coordinator was specifically invited because SARE was seen as a partner in this effort. In some part this resulted from the Circle of Sustainability listening sessions in 2008 which generated so many good contacts among Extension and Tribal Colleges and Agencies in

the two states. There were great opportunities to talk with educators about how SARE might help them and their clients achieve better outcomes in food production and marketing.

The ND SARE program also sent educators to a High Tunnel Workshop, an Organic no-till garden tour, the Tristate Meat Goat Conference, the ASA Conference, the 2010 Indian Agriculture Summit in Nevada and National Cattleman's Convention, the Alfalfa/Corn Rotations Workshop, the NPSAS Winter Conference, the Value-Added Meat Training, the American Dietetics Food and Nutrition Conference, a Marketing for the Ag Entrepreneur Training, an Organic Farming Conference, and the American Community Garden Association National Conference. Travel support for educators (who identify their own areas of interest in sustainable agriculture) remains very popular and one of the most successful parts of the SARE program in North Dakota. All the educators report increased knowledge and new contacts.