

2007 Dakota Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education Program Annual Report

Frank Kutka, Dakota SARE Coordinator

SUMMARY

2007 was a fantastic year for the Dakota SARE program. The winter months saw workshops on a wide variety of topics from no-till agriculture (via a mini-grant to the ManDak Zero Tillage Farming Association) to SARE Farmer Rancher Grants. May and June brought successful workshops about organic agriculture to educators from the Dakotas, an organic agriculture workshop for Farm Business Management educators from North Dakota and also the first ever meeting of the NCR-SARE AC and elders and educators from the reservations in the Dakotas. Our new website, www.DakotaSARE.info came on line during the first week of July. August was marked by a well attended windbreak course put on by the North Dakota Association of Soil Conservation Districts and a meeting by Extension Administrators from NDSU and SDSU in Pierre, SD. Progress continued in fall with an introduction to SARE for NDSU Extension Specialists, the well attended and Mini-Grant supported North Central Meat Goat Conference in Aberdeen, SD, and the Vegetable Production and Marketing Roundtable in Moorhead, MN sponsored by a Mini-Grant to the Immigrant Development Center in Fargo, ND. The outcomes of these activities are improved connections among agriculture educators and the SARE program, greater awareness of the SARE grant opportunities among the public, greater awareness of sustainable agriculture generally, and educators learning more and working actively to educate about sustainable agriculture systems in the Dakotas. We are well underway for achieving the educational outcomes for this program.

INTRODUCTION

The Dakota Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE) Program is a joint effort between NDSU, SDSU and the USDA's North Central Region SARE program which funds it. It is now being served by a coordinator located at NDSU's Dickinson Research Extension Center (DREC) in Dickinson, ND. This facility is a logical choice for the location for this two-state coordinator given its programmatic focus on sustainability and long history of interaction with SDSU's West River Ag Center in Rapid City, SD. The ultimate outcome of the program is: **Educators who are knowledgeable in the general concepts of sustainable agriculture**

and motivated to work in partnership with farmers, ranchers, and the general public on developing programs and activities that enhance the sustainability of rural communities and the food and agricultural system.

APPROACH AND METHODS

The Dakota SARE program sets priorities for professional development and other programming via an advisory council of stakeholders (Table 1). In January and February 2007 members of this council met three times via telephone to discuss priorities for the program, activities for the year, and selections for the youth grant program. Input on mini-grant and travel scholarship applications was offered via email and telephone. Meetings of Extension administrators, NCR-SARE PDP administrators, NCR-SARE AC members from the Dakotas and the state coordinator were held in June and August 2007. At these meetings it was decided to continue in a two state program with one coordinator in North Dakota. The advisors met in late November and made suggestions for priorities for the 2008 plan of work and become better acquainted with one another and SARE. A SARE presence at Extension and Vo-Ag conferences was supported. An executive committee of the advisors, made up of the Extension administrators and NCR-SARE AC members who met previously, helped review the budget and some of the major initiatives in December. They have also reviewed application materials to make sure that educators applying for support understand sustainable agriculture and are prepared to deliver reports on their outcomes.

Besides training programs and workshops put on by the coordinator, the Dakota SARE program also carries out professional development via the DakotaSARE.info website, travel scholarships to help educators attend training meetings, and mini-grants to support trainings put on by other educators in the Dakotas. Some direct public promotion of the SARE program and its grant opportunities is conducted by the coordinator and an experimental youth grant program is also administered by the coordinator.

RESULTS

There were 35 Travel Scholarships approved in 2007 (Table 2). Travel support was especially aimed at helping educators attend Mini-Grant funded programs, such as the Farm Business Management organic agriculture workshop in Rochester, MN, and the SARE-sponsored organic agriculture trainings that began at the NPSAS Winter Conference in

Aberdeen, SD and finished with the workshop and tour in Medina, ND.

There were 21 Mini-Grant projects approved in 2007 (Table 3). Project topics were left to the proposers. Some of these projects that were supported were to provide bundled travel support to educators attending workshops or conferences, like the organic workshop held near Rapid City, SD as part of Chuck Francis' Organic Agriculture PDP project. Some were to build on previous travel scholarships, such as the Organic Agriculture workshop and tour held near Madison, SD.

Twenty presentations were made in 2007 (Table 4). These varied from providing fliers and personal conversations about Farmer Rancher Grants at a meeting of Bush Foundation Fellows from the Dakotas, to many 30-60 minute presentations about

Farmer Rancher Grants or what SARE is all about, to an organic agriculture training that included two days of presentations and two days of tours across central North Dakota. From 17 January 2007 until 10 January 2008 the state coordinator logged in over 1900 telephone, email, mail and personal communications in order to support and promote the SARE program and sustainable agriculture in the Dakotas. Over 840 unique visitors came to www.DakotaSARE.info since it was launched.

Finally, there were nine Dakota SARE Youth Grants in 2007 (Table 5). These included young people individually and in groups who learned some basics of agriculture and horticulture and some who even carried out experiments. Therese Weber was able to take a report about her project to the North Dakota State Fair and win a blue ribbon.

Table 1. Dakota SARE Advisory Council members.

Member Name	Affiliation
Robin Salverson	SD Representative – NCR SARE Admin. Council, SDSU CES
Brad Brummond	ND Representative- NCR SARE Admin. Council, NDSU Extension
Karen Pearson	SDSU CES Associate Director and Bush Foundation Leadership Fellow
Roger Haugen	NDSU Extension ANR Director
David Clay	SDSU Faculty and current PDP Grant recipient
April Borders (vacant since January)	SDSU CES
Jim Hennessey	NDSU Extension and Travel Scholarship recipient
Roger Gates	SDSU CES Range Specialist and Mini-Grant recipient
Ron Weiderholt	NDSU Nutrient Management Specialist and Travel Scholarship and Mini-Grant recipient
Cheyenne Erickson	NDSU Extension/FRTEP
Julie Garreau	Director Cheyenne River Youth Project
Pandy Pittman	Wall School Vocational Agriculture
Joe Dunn	Standing Rock Tribal Conservation District Manager and Travel Scholarship recipient
Jim Beddow	Director Rural Learning Center
Karri Stroh	Administrator FARRMS, and Farmer near Medina, ND
Jayme Murray	Farmer near Eagle Butte, SD and BIA
Gabe Brown	Farmer near Bismarck, ND who works closely with NRCS
Jim Gilkerson	Farmer near Brookings, SD
Ronny Mackaben	Farmer near New Underwood, SD and former NCR-SARE AC member
Linda Grotberg	Farmer near Wimbleton, ND and Farmer Rancher Grant recipient

Table 2. Dakota SARE 2007 Travel Scholarship Report.

Educator Name	Affiliation	Funds Awarded	Attendance	Outcome
Elayne Hovde	NDSU Extension (FRTEP)	\$500	Society for Range Management	New knowledge, increased cooperation with SARE
Paul Overby	Lakes Region State College Farm Management	\$500	Man-Dak Zero Tillage Farming Conference	New knowledge and connections
Dan Folske	NDSU Extension	\$500	Northern Plains Sustainable Ag Society Conference	New knowledge, attendance of organic ag trainings
David Vandervliet	SDSU CES	\$334	Northern Plains Sustainable Ag Society Conference	New knowledge, attendance of organic ag trainings
Jim Hennessy	NDSU Extension	\$500	Northern Plains Sustainable Ag Society Conference	New knowledge, attendance of many organic ag trainings
Kendall Nichols	NDSU Extension	\$500	Northern Plains Sustainable Ag Society Conference	New knowledge, attendance of organic ag trainings
Craig Askim	NDSU Extension	\$500	Northern Plains Sustainable Ag Society Conference	New knowledge, attendance of organic ag trainings
Carrie Schumacher	NDSU Extension	\$500	Northern Plains Sustainable Ag Society Conference	New knowledge
Todd Weinmann	NDSU Extension	\$500	Northern Plains Sustainable Ag Society Conference	New knowledge
Mick Reisinger	NDSU Extension	\$333	Low Stress Livestock Handling Workshop	New knowledge
April Borders	SDSU CES	\$500	MOSES Organic Farming Conference	New knowledge, delivered information in workshop, became an advisor
Shari Wick	Adams Co ND Soil Conservation District	\$105	NDCDEA Tree Meeting	New knowledge
Jodi Timm	Adams Co ND Soil Conservation District	\$105	NDCDEA Tree Meeting	New knowledge
Mark Fanning	SDSU CES	\$434	Animal Grazing Behavior Workshop	New knowledge
Joe Dunn	Standing Rock Tribal Conservation District	\$500	Growing Power Workshop	New knowledge, enthusiastically supported SARE visit to Fort Yates, now an advisor
David Vandervliet	SDSU CES	\$150	Dakota SARE Organic Ag Workshop	New knowledge, helped organize an organic ag field day near Selby

Jerry Tuhy	Farm Business Management	\$500	Organic ag session at national FBM meeting in Rochester	New knowledge
Allen Graner	Farm Business Management	\$500	Organic ag session at national FBM meeting in Rochester	New knowledge
Kevin Misek	Farm Business Management	\$500	Organic ag session at national FBM meeting in Rochester	New knowledge
Virgil Dagman	Farm Business Management	\$500	Organic ag session at national FBM meeting in Rochester	New knowledge
Mark Holkup	Farm Business Management	\$500	Organic ag session at national FBM meeting in Rochester	New knowledge
Donald Hagen	Farm Business Management	\$500	Organic ag session at national FBM meeting in Rochester	New knowledge
Beau Anderson	Farm Business Management	\$500	Organic ag session at national FBM meeting in Rochester	New knowledge
Tom Hanson	Farm Business Management	\$500	Organic ag session at national FBM meeting in Rochester	New knowledge
Theresa Podoll	Farmer, Bush Fellow, OFRF Board	\$500	The Organic Summit	New contacts and knowledge, ongoing connections for Dakota SARE with organic industry
Anissa Wilhelm	North Dakota State College of Science	\$1175	Facilitating Sustainable Agriculture Education Conference	New knowledge and contacts
Brad Tews	North Dakota State College of Science	\$1220	Facilitating Sustainable Agriculture Education Conference	New knowledge and contacts
Zeno Wicks	SDSU Dept of Plant Science	\$1250	Facilitating Sustainable Agriculture Education Conference	New knowledge and contacts; consulting on fund raising for new National Sustainable Ag Educator group
Steve Metzger	Farm Business Management	\$500	International Bison Conference	New knowledge

Jim Hennessey	NDSU Extension	\$500	Natural Products Expo East	Expanded knowledge about organic ag, now a Dakota SARE advisor, developing new programming
Clint Clark	SDSU CES	\$400	Tri-State Meat Goat Conference	Provided new information to a large group of producers and educators, new contacts
Maurice Lemke	SDSU CES	\$400	Tri-State Meat Goat Conference	Provided new information to a large group of producers and educators, new contacts
Rebecca Shafer	SDSU CES	\$180	Tri-State Meat Goat Conference	New knowledge
Duaine Marxen	SDSU CES	\$160	Tri-State Meat Goat Conference	New knowledge
Pat Carr	NDSU DREC	\$375	Gardening for Sustainability Roundtable	New contacts for organic research

Table 3. Dakota SARE 2007 Mini-Grant Report.

Educator Name	Affiliation	Funds Awarded	Mini-Grant Activity
Ruth Beck	SDSU CES	\$2100	2007 SD No-Till Association meeting
Alan Ness	Man-Dak Zero Tillage Association	\$2000	Support for Man-Dak Zero Tillage Meeting
Elayne Hovde	NDSU FRTEP	\$2000	Low Stress Livestock Handling Workshop
Lynn Nelson	Northern Plains Sustainable Ag Society	\$2000	Speakers for NPSAS Winter Conference
Alexander Smart	SDSU CES	\$1300	Pasture Management Workshop for County Educators
Angela Jackson	Organic Grassfed Beef Coalition (SD)	\$2000	Organic Grassfed Beef Summit
Virgil Dagman	James Valley Tech Center (FBM)	\$2300	Working with Organic Clients Workshop
Matt Bernau	SDSU CES	\$2000	Sustainable Weed Control Management
Cal Thorson	USDA-ARS	\$2000	North Dakota Soil and Water Science Summit
Thandiwe Nleya	SDSU CES	\$2000	Training for Organic Farming and Ranching in the Great Plains
Kelly Cooper	Wild Rice Conservation District (ND)	\$2000	Conservation Cropping Systems Project Field Day
April Borders	SDSU CES	\$2000	Education to Support the Growth of Organic Farming
Irene Graves	SDSU CES	\$1500	Prairie to the Rescue Field Tour
Tom Hanson	North Dakota Association of Soil Conservation Districts	\$2000	Windbreak Technology Course
Roger Gates	SDSU CES	\$1900	Connecting Extension Educators and Beef Producers Through Transformational Education
Kathryn Reeves	SDSU CES	\$2000	YD/4H Educators: Catalysts for Promoting Range Conservation and Ethics
Mindy Hubert	SDSU CES	\$2000	Incentives for Ag Educators to Attend the 2007 SD Grazing School
Laurie Tangen	SDSU CES	\$2000	Emergency Preparedness for Rural Families
Wendy Bengochea	NDSU Extension	\$2000	Real-Time Ultrasound Scanning for North Dakota Youth and Producers
Clint Clark	SDSU CES	\$2000	North Central Meat Goat Conference
Fowzia Adde	Immigrant Development Center (ND)	\$2000	Vegetable Production and Marketing Roundtable

Table 4. Dakota SARE Workshops and Presentations

Workshop Focus	Location	Attendance	Date
Sustainable Corn Production	NDSU/Sidney ARS Winter Workshop, Sidney, MT	28	3 January 2007
Farmer Rancher Grants	Oglala Lakota College Center in Batesland, SD	18	23 January 2007
Farmer Rancher Grants	Sioux Falls Ag Show, Sioux Falls, SD	12	24 January 2007
Farmer Rancher Grants	Northern Plains Sustainable Agriculture Society, Aberdeen, SD	14	10 February 2007
Farmer Rancher Grants	Great Lakes Indigenous Farming Association, White Earth Reservation, MN	11	11 February 2007
Farmer Rancher Grants	ND OCIA Conference, Bismarck, ND	65	12 March 2007
Introduction to SARE	NDSU REC Conference	57	14 March 2007
Introduction to SARE	NCREC Organic Agriculture Day	48	11 April 2007
Introduction to SARE	NRCS Tour of Gene Goven Farm	26	28 April 2007
Organic Ag Basics	Medina, ND	9	21-22 May 2007
Organic Ag Tour	Harvey, Carrington and Fullerton, ND	8	6-7 June 2007
Introduction to the Native Peoples of the Dakotas	NCR-SARE AC meeting in Bismarck, ND	35	13-14 June 2007
Sustainability and Bioenergy	NDSU DREC Field Day in Dickinson, ND	55	11 July 2007
Organic Agriculture in Western North Dakota	PDP Organic Workshop in Dickinson, ND	25 (9 educators)	12 July 2007
Introduction to SARE	April Borders' Organic Agriculture Workshop in Madison, SD	43	16 July 2007
Introduction to SARE	South Dakota Vocational Agriculture Teachers Association, Pierre, SD	35	31 July 2007
Introduction to SARE	NDSU Fall Specialists Conference, Little Falls, MN	14	13 September 2007
Introduction to SARE and Farmer Rancher Grants	Clint Clark's North Central Meat Goat Conference in Aberdeen, SD	105	5 October 2007
Farmer Rancher Grants	Bush Fellows Summit in St Paul, MN	350 (discussion with attendees from the Dakotas – 30)	29 October 2007
Farmer Rancher Grants	Agriculture Day at Sitting Bull College, Fort Yates, ND	9	5 November 2007

Table 5. Dakota SARE Youth Grants in 2007.

Name	Location	Project	Funds Granted
Black Hills Academy	Spearfish, SD	Academy Grounds Enhancement with Native Plants	\$250
Ryan Hauck	Avon, SD	Soil Solarization	\$250
Javan Krahn	Langdon, ND	Fantastic Fruit from the Farm	\$131
Hannah Nordby	Amidon, ND	Grazed Control of Canada Thistle	\$150
Blaine Novak	Fordville, ND	Novak Hogs	\$250
Nate Olson	Flasher, ND	Internal Parasite Management	\$245
Clare Tjeerdsma	Avon, SD	Meat Goats	\$250
Grace Tjeerdsma	Avon, SD	Growing Raspberries	\$120
Therese Weber	Wahpeton, ND	Natural Gardening	\$250