



Southern SARE and Extension

Highlights of the Southern Region SARE and Cooperative Extension partnership

When the 1985 Farm bill established the SARE program, it mandated that all agricultural agents be trained in sustainable agriculture. That training component was officially named the Professional Development Program (PDP), which recognizes the importance of training for NRCS staff, crop consultants and other information providers as well as those employed by the Cooperative Extension Service. PDP funds support training through sustainable agriculture coordinators in each state, competitive projects and regional workshops.

State Coordinators

The 1862 and 1890 extension programs in each state appoint the coordinators who collaborate to administer \$20,000 annually in sustainable ag training activities tailored for specific needs. For example, in the mountains of Puerto Rico, 44 youngsters at a 4-H camp learned sustainable gardening techniques, while in the mountains of Tennessee 1200 adults were trained in whole farm systems. In Louisiana, Master Gardeners learned to help producers reduce pesticide use throughout bayou country. In Georgia waste management officials learned to compost municipal waste and sell it as a soil amendment.

The state coordinators are now drafting plans for a model program of activities and organization within each state. As these models are refined, SARE will increase state funding to accomplish specific goals.

State coordinators also contribute to the agenda of SARE's regional workshops that bring together expert presentations and focus groups on hot topics such as organics and bioengineering.

Professional Development Projects

To date, 71 training projects have been funded through PDP in the Southern region. Some are broad based such as Jim Palmer's tour of alternative farms in South Carolina (LST94-006). Extension personnel and other ag professionals visited 10 different kinds of operations from a canning facility to a farm that grows colored cotton.



Oklahoma State University Extension Horticulturist Dean McCraw conducted a multi-state research project (LS99-102) evaluating the economic and environmental benefits of grazing beef in pecan orchards.

Other PDP projects have a narrower focus such as Kathy Flanders' training in sustainable fire-ant management for Alabama agents and farmers.

In Puerto Rico Miguel Monroig headed up a PDP project that produced the first Spanish-language manuals for growing coffee and plantains using sustainable practices. The task force included 43 leader farmers, 21 county agents, 6 investigators, two conservationists and one ecologist. The manuals now are being used by Puerto Rico's Department of Agriculture, NRCS and the Puerto Rico Agricultural Extension Service.

At Kentucky State University, Small Farms Specialist Marion Simon developed a popular hands-on training for extension agents and paraprofessionals called That Third Thursday Thing. Building on its success, she was awarded a second grant to expand the training program into Tennessee on Third Tuesdays.

Research Projects

Not restricted to Professional Development Program grants, extension specialists have conducted outstanding research since 1988, SARE's first year of funding. In fact, the first three Southern SARE projects were led by then Georgia Extension Entomologist Don Horton (co-coordinator of LS88-001), Prairie View CES Administrator Hoover Carden (LS88-002) and Georgia Extension Agronomist John Beasley (LS88-003).

The two recent Oklahoma beef projects referenced in the photo caption above and featured on the cover of the SARE 2003 National Highlights were both led by extension specialists.

In 2002 Southern SARE initiated the On Farm Research grants designed for extension agents who work with producers. Now in their second year, 17 projects have been funded in topics as varied as alternative fly control on Arkansas dairies and an evaluation of flowering bulbs as a sustainable alternative for tobacco farmers in Tennessee.

Recent Professional Development Program projects

ES01-052 The Third Tuesday-Thursday Thing, Kentucky State University, \$50,000, Marion Simon, Ph:(502)597-6437, msimon@gwmail.kysu.edu

ES01-054 Growing with the Community: A Hands-on Training Design for Agriculture Educators, Farmers, and Community Leaders, Florida Organic Growers, \$49,735, Ellen Huntley, Ph:(352) 377-6345, foodfog@aol.com

ES01-056 Training in Production and Utilization of Composted Waste Materials in Warm, Humid Climates to Improve Soils for Horticultural Crops, University of Florida, \$47,896, Monica Ozores-Hampton, Ph:(941)658-3400, ozores@gnv.ifas.ufl.edu

ES01-058 Sustaining Agriculture Through Community Partnerships, Central Carolina Community College, North Carolina, \$49,884, Robin Kohanowich, Ph:(919) 542-6496, rkohanowich@gw.ccarolina.cc.nc.us

ES01-059 Training for Pasture Land Management Research Extension & Education, Virginia Tech, \$49,981 John M. Galbraith, Ph:(540) 231-9784, ttcf@vt.edu

ES02-060 Enhancing Educator Knowledge of Sheep and Goat Production, NCAT, AR, \$49,998 Linda Coffey, Ph:(479) 442-9824, lindac@ncatark.uark.edu

ES02-061 A Statewide Journey of Sustainable Success: Hands-On Training, University of Tennessee, TN, \$48,000, Rob Holland, Ph:(931) 486-2777, rholland@utk.edu

ES02-062 A Training and Educational Program to Ensure the South's Future Farmland and Forestland, Kerr Center for Sustainable Agriculture, OK, \$119,905, Jim Horne, Ph:(918) 647-9123, jhorne@kerrcenter.com

ES02-063 Adding Value with Small-Scale Fruit and Vegetable Processing, University of Kentucky, KY, \$41,965, Betty S. King, Ph:(859) 257-3404, bking@uky.edu

ES02-064 Calhoun Fields Laboratory: A Program for Experiential Training in Organic Farming Systems, Clemson University, SC, \$49,926, Geoff Zehnder, Ph:(864) 656-6644, zehnder@clemson.edu

ES03-065 Building Sustainable Soil Systems, NC A&T State University, NC, \$119,848, Keith Baldwin, Ph: (336) 334-7957, kbaldwin@ncat.edu

ES03-066 Producer Managed Efforts in Marketing of Livestock & Livestock Products, NC A&T State University, NC, \$89,400, John O'Sullivan, Ph: (336) 334-7957, johno@ncat.edu

ES03-067 What Service Providers Must Know About Organic Rules and Regulations, University Florida, \$133,762, Rosalie Koenig, Ph:(352)392-3631, rosiesfarm@mindspring.com

ES03-068 Curriculum in Organic Agriculture for Agents and Teachers, Georgia Organics, \$70,810, Craig Triplett, Ph: (404) 329-0390, craig@georgiaorganics.org

ES03-069 Training Educators to Protect Honey Bee Pollinators with Sustainable Pest Management, University of Tennessee Ag Ext Service, TN, \$126,648, John Skinner, Ph: (865) 974-7135, jskinner@utk.edu

ES03-070 Barriers and Opportunities for Adding Value to Small Ruminant Animals, University of Kentucky Cooperative Extension, KY, \$44,490, Betty King, PH: (859) 257-3404, bking@uky.edu

ES03-071 Developing a Hair Sheep Production System for Southwest Virginia, Thorntree Farm, VA, \$51,879, Martha Mewbourne, Ph: (276) 479-3057, tfarm@mounet.com

ES04-072 Value-added microprocessor project, University of Kentucky, KY, \$94,228, Sandra Bastin, Ph: (859) 257-7791, sbastin@uky.edu

ES04-073 Train the trainer: A wholistic approach to integrated resources management and grassland revitalization, Mississippi State University, MS, \$93,908, Charles Flowers, Ph: (662) 325-2852, wflowers@ads.msstate.edu

ES04-074 Enhancing Alternative Niche Market and Retail Opportunities for Agricultural Products, University of Kentucky, KY, \$47,127, Betty King, Ph: (859) 257-3403, bking@uky.edu

ES04-075 Regional goat production and marketing project: Phase 1, Kentucky State University, KY, \$84,550, Marion Simon, Ph: (502) 597-6437, msimon@gwmail.kysu.edu

ES04-076 Putting it all together: using livestock to manage natural resources, NCAT/ATTRA, AR, \$80,187, Teresa Maurer, Ph: (479) 442-9824, teresam@ncat.org

ES05-078 Sustainable Production Systems for Range-Reared Standard Turkeys, American Livestock Breeds Conservancy, NC, \$109,444, Marjorie Bender, 919-542-5704, mbender@albc-usa.org

ES05-079 Direct Market Training for Agricultural Professionals, North Carolina State University, NC, \$96,757, S. Gary Bullen, 919-515-6096, Gary_Bullen@ncsu.edu

ES05-080 Small-Scale Poultry Production: Sustainability Training, Heifer International, KY, \$129,530, Rhonda Everman, 859-497 0603, rhonda.everman@heifer.org

ES05-081 Regional Meat Goat Production and Marketing Project: Phase 2 Kentucky State University, KY, \$3Last ye9,578, Marion Simon, 502-597-6437, msimon@gwmail.kysu.edu

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