

# **Western SARE: A Partner in improving agricultural sustainability in New Mexico**

Teryl Roper  
Western Regional Coordinator  
**UtahStateUniversity**

Grants and education to advance innovations in sustainable agriculture

# Objectives:

- Inform about Western SARE
- New Mexico needs/objectives
- New Mexico ideas/proposals



# Biography



- BS, MS Botany, Brigham Young University
- PhD, Horticulture/Pomology, Washington State University
- Post-Doc, UC Davis, Viticulture
- Faculty, Univ. of Wisconsin-Madison, Extension Pomology
- Dept. Head, Utah State University
- WSARE Regional Coordinator



# SUSTAINABILITY

## Western Region Sustainable Agriculture Research & Education



National Institute of  
Food and Agriculture

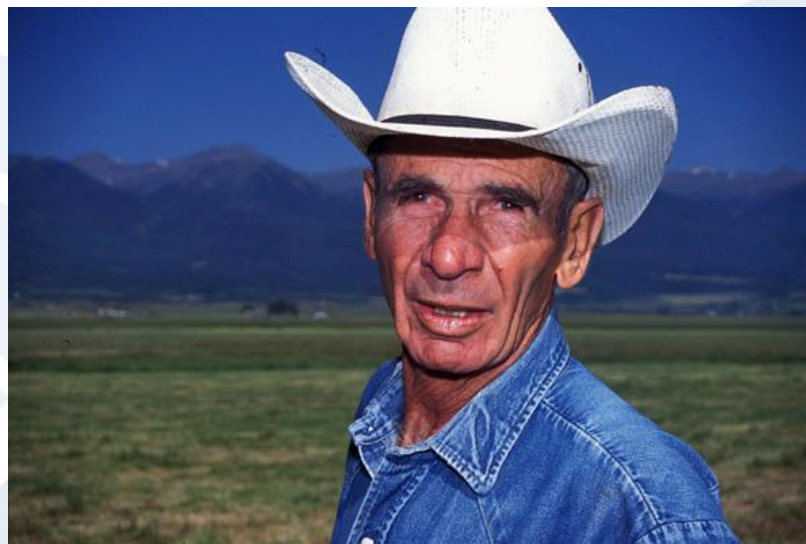


Sustainable Agriculture  
Research & Education



# WSARE is:

- Grant making
- Focus on the three P's of Sustainability
- Local Leadership, National Impact
- Communication



# WSARE is Grant Making

- Farmers/ranchers
- Ag professionals
  - University faculty
- Private sector
- Land grants, etc.
- NGO
- Tribes
- Pest management
- Energy
- Stewardship
- Marketing
- Systems research
- Organics

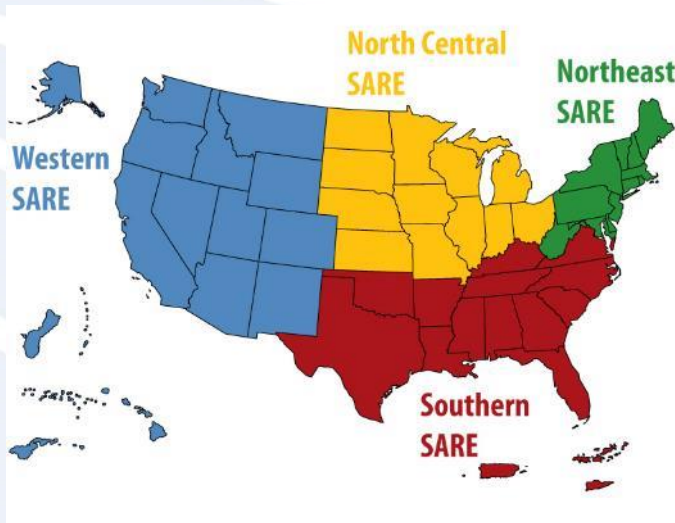
# WSARE is 3 P's

- **PROFIT** Over the long term
- **PROTECTION** Of our land and water
- **PEOPLE** Who depend on agriculture



# WSARE is Local Leadership

- Administrative Council:
  - Farmers/ranchers
  - Academics
  - Agencies
  - NGO





# A broad array of experience in the Administrative Council



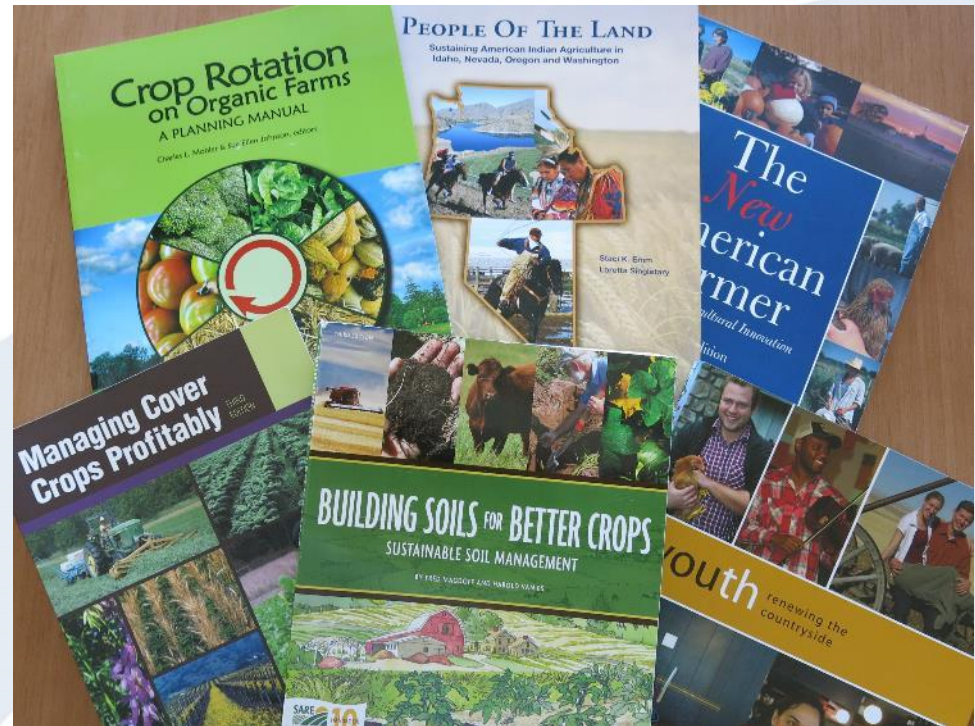
# WSARE: A part of the BIG West

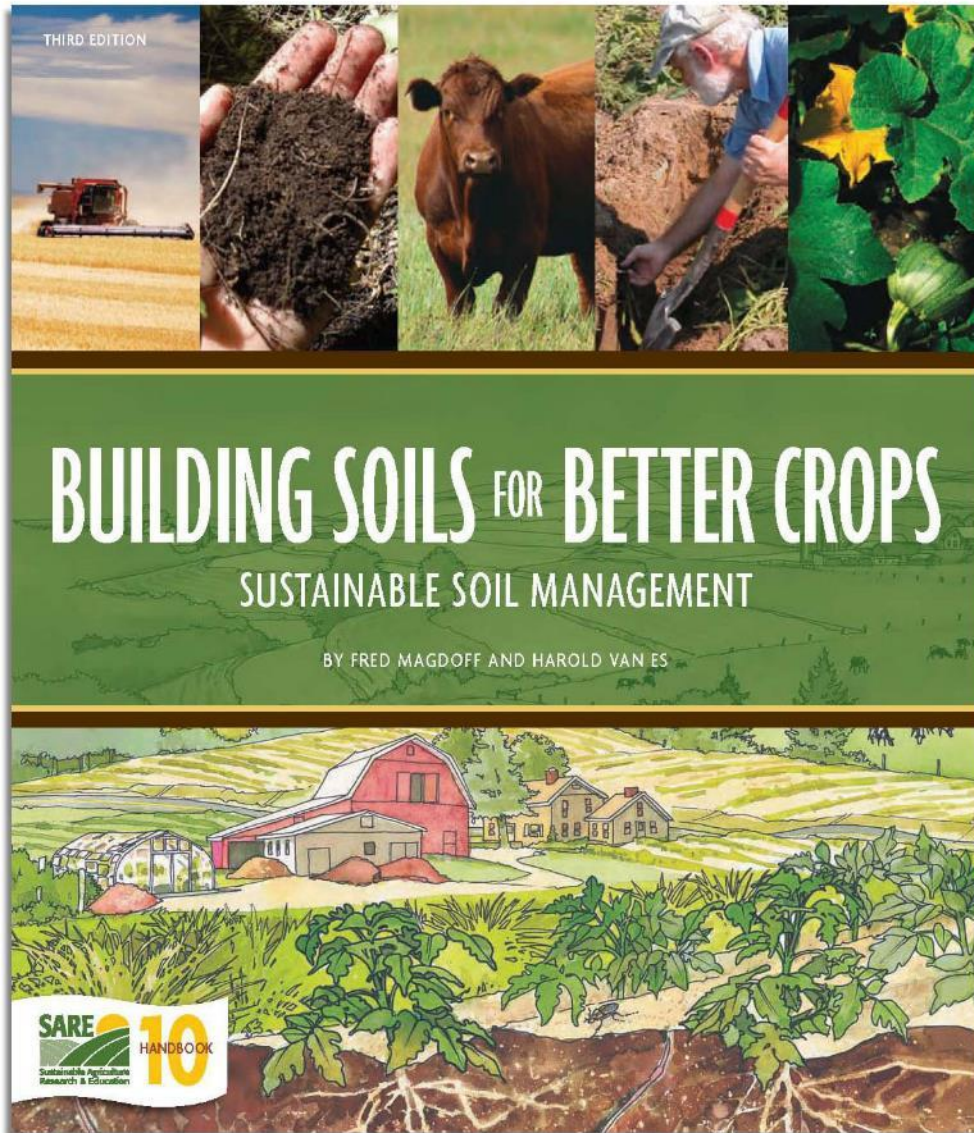


# WSARE is Communication

- Publish practical information
- Audience: Farmers/ranchers, educators
- Books
- Bulletins
- On-line resources
- Project database
- Factsheets
- Listserv
- Newsletters

All Available on-line at [sare.org](http://sare.org)





# Crop Rotation on Organic Farms

A PLANNING MANUAL

Charles L. Mohler & Sue Ellen Johnson, editors



Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE)  
Natural Resource, Agriculture, and Engineering Service (NRAES)

# Managing Cover Crops Profitably

THIRD EDITION



Statutory Definition • U.S. Code Title 7, Section 3103

# **SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE**

*Satisfies human food and fiber needs*

*Enhances environmental quality  
and the natural resource base*

*Efficiently uses nonrenewable & on-farm resources  
and integrates natural biological cycles & controls*

*Sustains the economic viability  
of farm operations*

*Enhances the quality of life for  
farmers and society as a whole*





# WSARE's Mission:

- WSARE's mission is to advance—to the **whole** of American agriculture—innovations that improve profitability, stewardship, and quality of life by investing in **groundbreaking** research and education.
- Willing to take risks!

# WSARE Background

- Congress also mandated that SARE **NOT** be “business as usual”
- SARE was mandated to ensure that research results be rapidly disseminated to farmers and ranchers



# WSARE Background

- **1994 to 2015:**
- 20 years with WSARE
- >\$73 million of USDA-NIFA Competitive Funds



# WSARE Funding

- **Formerly came in two portions:**
  - Chapter 1: CSREES with up to 10% overhead
  - Chapter 3: Extension with no overhead
- 
- **2014:**
  - All funds via Chapter 1
  - \$5 million for WSARE



# WSARE Grant Programs

- **Five types of competitive grants:**
- Research and Education
- Graduate Student Fellowships
- Professional Development
- Professional + Producer grants
- Farmer/Rancher



# Research & Education

- Large, multi-state, multi-disciplinary
- Systems trials
- Grower participation required at inception
- Outreach required
- Three years
- Pre-proposals in June, full in December
  - Full proposals by invitation

# WSARE Grant Programs

- Graduate Student Fellowships
  - Small grants up to \$25,000
    - Often to supplement thesis project
  - Up to two years
  - Eight awards per year
  - Outreach required
  - Written by student
  - May 13 deadline

# WSARE Grant programs

- Professional + Producer grants
  - Medium sized
  - Perfect for Extension faculty
  - NRCS Technical service providers
  - PCA's
  - NGO's
- Up to three years
- Growers involved: Inception → Completion
- Outreach required



# WSARE Grant programs

- Farmer/Rancher Grants
  - Small: \$20k/1 producer; \$25k/3producers + replicating research
  - Not for capital equipment
  - Not for farm/ranch operating expenses
  - Research is required
  - Outreach is required
  - Reports are required
  - Must have a technical advisor (County Agent or similar)
  - Producers **must** write proposal

# WSARE Grant programs

- **Professional Development Grants**
- PDP Competitive Training Grants
  - Train the trainer type grants
  - Up to \$50K
  - Multi-year



# WSARE Grant Programs

Program	Date	Proposals	Funded
<b>R&amp;E</b>	6/3 + 11/4	50-60	6-7
<b>Grad Student</b>	5/13	~40	8
<b>PDP</b>	10/28	~50	<10
<b>P + P</b>	12/2	60-70	~7
<b>Farmer/Rancher</b>	12/2	60-70	~15

# 2013 WSARE Funding

Program	National	West
R & E Pre-proposal	6%	5.6%
R&E Full proposal	25.8%	28.6%
Farmer/Rancher	25.7%	14.3%
P + P	34.5%	19.5%
Grad Student	31.8%	16%
PDP	36.4%	33.3%

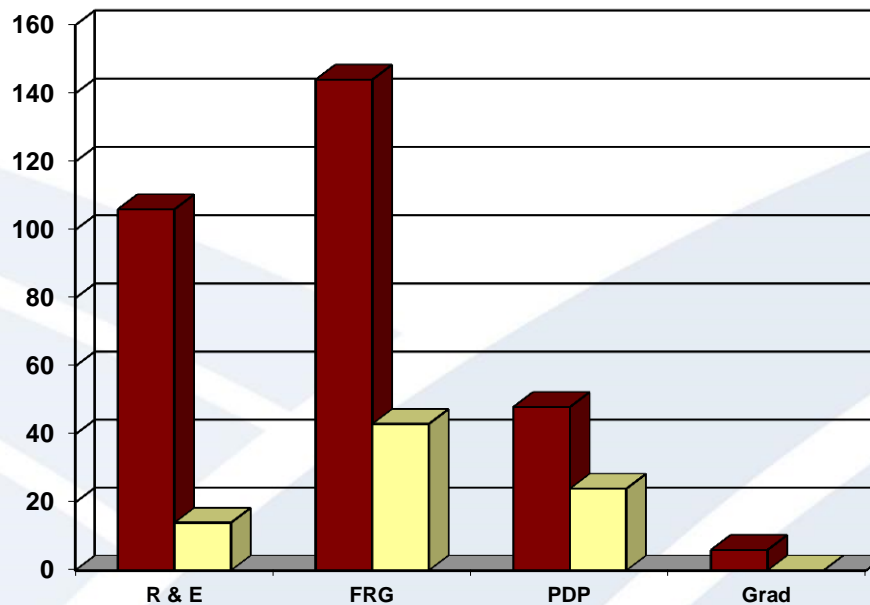
# New Mexico

PDP State Coordinators: Stephanie Walker, John Idowu, New Mexico State University

New Mexico has received \$2,069,600 between 1988 and 2014 to support 82 projects, including:

- 14 Research and Education Projects
- 6 Professional Development Projects
- 18 \*PDP State Implementation Projects
- 43 \*\*Farmer/Rancher Projects

## Ratio of Submitted to Funded Projects



\*Professional Development Program

\*\*Farmer/Rancher and Professional + Producer

■ Submitted ■ Funded

New Mexico also has received additional SARE support through multi-state projects.

# New Mexico 2014

Program	Submitted 2014	Funded 2014	Cumulative Submitted	Cumulative Funded
R & E	3	0	106	14
FRG/PPG	3	0	144	43
Grad	0	0	6	0
PDP	2	1	48	24
<b>Total All Programs</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>304</b>	<b>81</b>

# Successful Proposals:

- Collaborations:
  - University researchers
  - Producers
  - Commodity associations
  - Government agencies
    - (Rural development, NRCS, Risk Management)
  - Cooperative Extension
  - Marketers
- Sustainability demonstrated
  - 3 Areas included

# Successful Proposals:

- R&E:
  - 3 areas all included
- Farmer/Rancher:
  - Innovative
  - Practical
  - On-farm
  - Strong outreach
  - Answers specific question
- Grad Student:
  - Good research
  - Benefits student & University

**Meet all requirements described in the Call for Proposals!**



ALL projects must have built-in evaluations...




Western  
Region  
Sustainable Agriculture  
Research and Education

# How to apply:

- [www.westernsare.org](http://www.westernsare.org)
- [www.westernsare.org/Grants/Apply](http://www.westernsare.org/Grants/Apply)





# **New Mexico researchable problems/questions?**

- **What are pressing issues?**
- **How can we work together to address them?**



**QUESTIONS?**