

## NORTH DAKOTA SARE 2011 REPORT

Frank Kutka, SARE State Coordinator for North Dakota

Advisors for the ND SARE program in 2011 and going into 2012 included:

<b>Member</b>	<b>Affiliation</b>
Hans Kandel	ND Representative - NCR SARE Admin. Council, NDSU Extension Specialist
Chris Boerboom	NDSU ANR Director
Craig Askim	NDSU Extension Agent
Brad Brummond	NDSU Extension Agent, Chair of ND Dept of Ag Organic Advisory Board
Irene Graves	NDSU Extension Agent
Willie Huot	NDSU Extension Agent
Karl Hoppe	NDSU Extension Specialist
Karri Stroh	Executive Director of NPSAS, and Farmer near Tappen
Linda Grotberg	Farmer near Wimbledon and FRG recipient
Mike Zimmerman	President of Manitoba North Dakota Zero Tillage Farming Association
Linda Different Cloud-Jones	Science Education faculty and Ethnobotanist at Sitting Bull College
Colette Wolf	Horticulture Extension faculty at United Tribes Technical College

Outreach in order to promote the SARE program in North Dakota during 2011 included:

- \*19 January Burleigh County SCD Soil Health Workshop (SARE display and bulletins)
- \*3-5 February Northern Plains Sustainable Agriculture Society Winter Conference (SARE display, bulletins, presentation, facilitation)
- \*18 February North Dakota Farmers Market and Growers Association Conference (SARE display and bulletins)
- \*25 February Fort Berthold Community College meeting with Ag Department Advisory Committee (SARE display and bulletins)
- \*28 February Sioux County Extension Garden meeting (SARE display, presentation)
- \*4-6 March Indigenous Farming Conference (SARE display, bulletins, presentations)
- \*17 March Sitting Bull College Sustainable Agriculture Workshop (SARE display, bulletins, presentation)
- \*30 March NDSU Extension Conference with Tribal College Extension participation (SARE display, bulletins, discussion facilitation)
- \*4 April NPSAS Farm Breeding Club gathering (Discussion of SARE grant opportunities)
- \*16-18 April American Indian Higher Education Consortium National Conference (SARE display and bulletins)
- \*19 July SARE Circle of Sustainability Listening Session with Grazing Coalition (SARE display, participation, facilitation, video development - [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=\\_65hYQfYxOA](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_65hYQfYxOA), <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YtC4opevPXM>)
- \*29 July NPSAS Sustainable Ranching Tour (Participation, documentation)

- \*25 August NPSAS Sustainable Gardening Tour (Participation, video development - <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wffoeYUFK7k>)
- \*31 August Slope County Extension Cover Crop Tour (Participation, documentation)
- \*8 September DREC Elementary Student Soil Health Field Trip (Presentation and activities with teachers and 57 fifth grade students)
- \*25 October release video about nutrient management based on shots from DREC Section 19 integrated beef production project that is supported in part with a SARE Research and Education grant (<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yw3qAtKRyLE>)
- \*10 November NPSAS Farm Breeding Club gathering (Discussion of SARE grant opportunities)
- \*Permanent SARE display at NDSU Dickinson Research Extension Center with books, bulletins, poster, and banner
- \*Many phone calls and emails to educators across the state to encourage participation with ND SARE PDP activities, to explain the SARE program, etc.
- \*Many phone calls and emails to SARE grant writers across the state to explain the grant writing process, application requirements, how to write a competitive proposal, etc.
- \*Many emails and short write ups in newsletters to promote SARE grant opportunities to citizens of North Dakota
- \*ND SARE website updates (<http://www.ndsare.info/>)

The cover crops demonstration in 2011 expanded cover crops experience and soil health understanding into northeastern North Dakota, where relatively little work on soil health or cover cropping had been carried out. Brad Brummond teamed with local NRCS staff and the Northern Plains Sustainable Agriculture Society to put on a well-attended field day in late summer. Eight Extension agents and thirteen NRCS staff attended along with more than 25 farmers. Brad reports numerous farmers asking questions and planting cover crops in response to this demonstration. A demonstration in Bowman County in the southwestern part of the state was a joint effort of local farmers, Extension agents Andrea Bowman and Lane Hall, Extension specialist Roger Ashley, and NRCS conservationist Jon Stika. A smaller crowd attended that field day, but everyone had a chance to see a wide array of cover crop species and mixtures grown under no-till management.

The Scaling Up Local Foods team that attended the regional training in 2010 put on a local foods research symposium in Fargo in May of 2011. Twenty five of the sixty participants answered questions about their learning and most reported learning a great deal about the status of local foods production, marketing, and promotion in the state. Three educators were supported in their attendance of this event and ND SARE facilitated by paying for speaker travel and event organization. A follow-up discussion took part at Sustainable U which was put on by FARRMS in December. The team continues to collaborate on promoting increased local foods production and availability and this initiative has been one of the most successful for SARE in years. These links show the movement towards the research symposium, reporting to the public, and moving forward in 2012:

<http://www.ndsu.edu/ahas/2011/ahas.05132011.pdf>

<http://agnews890.com/2011/05/first-statewide-scaling-up-local-symposium-set-for-ndsu-in-may/>

<http://www.ag.ndsu.edu/news/newsreleases/2011/july-25-2011/ndsu-project-aims-to-increase-capacity-for-food-infrastructure-development>

[http://hpr1.com/cuisine/article/farrms\\_is\\_coming\\_to\\_fargo](http://hpr1.com/cuisine/article/farrms_is_coming_to_fargo)

[http://www.nd.gov/ndda/files/Local\\_Foods\\_Conference\\_registration\\_flyer.pdf](http://www.nd.gov/ndda/files/Local_Foods_Conference_registration_flyer.pdf)

ND SARE hopes to continue to support the development of sustainable local food production in North Dakota via regular teleconference updates for organization and travel support to bring more educators into the discussion.

The Deepening the Circle of Sustainability initiative was marked by joint meetings of NDSU and Tribal College Extension at the 2011 NDSU Extension Spring Conference. This was a very good next step beyond the Circle of Sustainability tour of reservations in 2008. Thirty NDSU Extension agents, specialists, and administrators joined with eight Tribal College Land Grant faculty during discussions of Youth and Food issues, Crop Production issues, and Animal Production issues. The enthusiasm that came out of these initial, joint meetings in Fargo was breathtaking. Folks really wanted to do something and soon. UTTC took the lead in helping pull together the Tribal College Horticulture Tour in August and provided the bus and the elegant lunch for the first day. NDSU's Tom Kalb and Peggy Candler showed off their joint projects with the UTTC in Bismarck. FBCC (Mary Fredericks) and Fort Berthold FRTEP (Carol Enno and Elise Regen) organized a full morning of cultural and horticultural tours. Linda Different Cloud from Sitting Bull College led the group on an edible native plants tour in the heat and Sue Isbell of Sioux County Extension gave us a thorough visit of her local foods projects in Fort Yates. Much fun and education were resulted. ND SARE supported the travel of eight educators to take part in these two events.

Five NDSU Extension agents attended SARE sponsored luncheons and tours at the NACAA meeting in Kansas in July, 2011. They learned new information about sustainable agriculture, SARE, and their peers at the meeting. After returning the agents joined or continued to work with the ND SARE Advisory Council which helps to plan the direction of the program in North Dakota. They also helped to facilitate a SARE sponsored activity, a tour of sustainable ag-related projects at the Carrington Research Extension Center, during the NDAEA tour in August. ND SARE sponsored the bus and travel expenses for two of the sixteen agents who attended that tour. It is gratifying to see so much collaboration between NDAEA and ND SARE on so many levels. This approach is reaping rewards for NDSU Extension Ag Agents and Specialists and is so far the best connection for SARE with younger Extension Agents.

The ND SARE program also sent educators to workshops on healthy living and optimizing food systems for human health, a workshop on organic seed development, the 2011 Intertribal Agriculture Council Symposium, and the 2011 Grassfed Beef Exchange. 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.

The nature of medium term outcomes is incredible. In the six years I have worked as a State Coordinator I am seeing things come about because of activities from 2-5 years earlier. Of the many SARE supported educators in South Dakota who were contacted last fall, only a few had time to report, but their stories are of great accomplishments thanks in part to SARE support. Hundreds of producers and youth have shared new knowledge as a result. In North Dakota, Marcus Lewton, a Vo-Ag instructor at the High School in South Heart, collaborated with the State Coordinator and also used a Youth Educator grant to deliver soil health information to Vo-Ag instructors in 2009. In 2011 he did a radio interview about soil health and an article in Successful Farming also described his work. SARE sponsored professional development activities continue to encourage agriculture educators to learn new information and skills about sustaining agriculture and to share what they learn with the public in an ongoing fashion.