



**AgEcon** SEARCH  
RESEARCH IN AGRICULTURAL & APPLIED ECONOMICS

*The World's Largest Open Access Agricultural & Applied Economics Digital Library*

**This document is discoverable and free to researchers across the globe due to the work of AgEcon Search.**

**Help ensure our sustainability.**

Give to AgEcon Search

AgEcon Search  
<http://ageconsearch.umn.edu>  
[aesearch@umn.edu](mailto:aesearch@umn.edu)

*Papers downloaded from **AgEcon Search** may be used for non-commercial purposes and personal study only. No other use, including posting to another Internet site, is permitted without permission from the copyright owner (not AgEcon Search), or as allowed under the provisions of Fair Use, U.S. Copyright Act, Title 17 U.S.C.*



# Presentation to USDA Agriculture Outlook Conference

## SARE is the future of U.S. Agriculture

A Grantee's Perspective

Karl Kupers

# The First 20 Years of SARE

Development of farmer research grants

Out-of-the-box thinking within university research grants

Train the trainer; effective development of university Extension and NGO's

# My Story: Small Grant, Big Change

SARE awarded a \$4,000 farmer grant in 1996 to encourage a fundamental environmental change in production

Shepherd's Grain has grown into a \$6 million business with 33 producers involved marketing that production change





# U.S. Agriculture of the Future...

- Is diverse
- Is environmentally sound
- Produces more nutrition
- Is more efficient (energy & water)
- Is connected to its region (food, fuel, feed or fiber)
- Rewards quality (and quality producers)
- Has a plan



# The SARE Model is Critical to Achieving the Ag of the Future

SARE has four ecosystem and geographic developed regions in place

SARE has research programs mandated to think outside the box

SARE has research programs that recognize and reward innovation

SARE has had huge successes with “federal budget dust” in the past as its funding

# Looking Forward



- Fund SARE at requested levels, not with leftover dollars
- Develop a U.S. agriculture policy centered around diversity, stewardship, and nutrition and built from the innovation of farmers, ranchers, foresters, and fishermen
- Use existing university research with direction from SARE
- Recognize that a nation that cannot feed itself cannot defend itself
- Place agriculture – food, feed, fiber and fuel production – into the future of America
- Allow an existing program (SARE) to be the leader in the development of innovative research