

Northeast SARE Professional Development Program Annual Report

1. **State:** _____Delaware_____
2. **Land-Grant Institution:** _____University of Delaware_____
3. **Report Period:** _____May 1, 2005 to April 30, 2006_____
4. **Title: Opportunities for Sustainable Agriculture in Delaware**
5. **Project Contact (State Extension Leader for SARE):**
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6. **Project Narrative:**

The goal of the Delaware PDP program was to educate agency and Extension personnel in sustainable agriculture topics and to facilitate interaction of these individuals with the farming population in the state. The SARE PDP grant supported numerous activities, including the following:

- Sponsoring two out-of-state farmer speakers at the organic farming session at Delaware Ag Week (this included travel expenses, room rental, refreshments, handouts, etc.).
- Sponsoring two out-of-state farmer speakers for the Delaware Agritourism Association annual meeting in March and costs for the meeting (this included travel expenses, room rental, refreshments, handouts, etc.).
- Support for a beginning farmer study circle in Kent County, Delaware.
- Support for a "Selling Direct to Wholesale Markets in Philadelphia" workshop (advertising for the workshop).
- Support for "Supplementing Your Income: Growing Crops for Crafts" workshops (several) in Kent County (see attached picture).
- Support for the agronomic crops field day at the Delaware State University research farm, including forage demonstration areas, alternative crops, and IPM practices in Kent County.
- Support for pasture management workshops in Kent County.
- Small fruit production guides for Small Fruits Short-course.

7. **Performance Targets (from proposal):**

- At least eight agricultural educators will incorporate techniques and principles from the tours and demonstrations into their programs.
- At least twenty five interested growers will be exposed to additional business models and techniques for making agriculture sustainable in Delaware.
- Alternative, sustainable farming practices are incorporated into nutrient management continuing education programs.
- Farmers, politicians, and urban audiences are exposed to innovative, sustainable organic farming techniques that show positive aspects of agriculture in the Mid-Atlantic Region.

8. Accomplishments/Milestones (from proposal):

- More than 40 growers participated in farm tours (verified by participation).
- Approximately 65 individuals attended the farm tours. This breaks down into 12 Extension, 12 “other” (Department of Agriculture, Farm Credit Association, Conservation District), and the remainder were growers.
- Delaware Ag Week was attended by more than 1,000 individuals. Sustainable agriculture topics are now specifically part of the program.
- Participants used the principles learned from this program in their work with the agricultural community (verified by personal interviews).
- Two agents from Cooperative Extension and four specialists used the information from the tours and field demonstrations in their educational materials related to sustainable agriculture (verified by personal interviews with Gordon Johnson, Carl Davis and Greg Binford).
- Appropriate information from the project will be incorporated into the statewide Nutrient Management Certification Program and associated continuing education classes which were seen by at least 200 agricultural producers (verified by David Hansen and Greg Binford).