

SOLUTION ACTIONS



OHIO SMART AGRICULTURE

SOLUTIONS FROM THE LAND

CARE TO SHARE?

This monthly newsletter shares information about current events, involved individuals and organizations and facts about the state of today and our vision for tomorrow. More information can be found on our website: www.ohiosmartag.net!

We look forward to highlighting events, activities and collaborations that match the vision behind Ohio Smart Agriculture.

Please email info@ohiosmartag.net with details, photographs or additional media to showcase in the next issue!

OHIO SMART AGRICULTURE: SOLUTIONS FROM THE LAND

Welcome to the first newsletter from Ohio Smart Agriculture: Solutions from the Land! Named “Solution Actions”, now is the time to act. We have launched a new initiative across Ohio to build upon stakeholder partnerships in agriculture, food, environment and health.

Our vision

Boost profitability for farmers at all scales and in all settings (from rural to urban) while restoring environmental resilience, building strong communities, engaging consumers and ensuring public health and access to nutritious food.

Our mission

Valuing all forms, sizes and types of food, feed and fiber production systems, recommend: public policy frameworks; research, technology and infrastructure priorities (physical and social); market mechanisms; and risk management solutions that can be deployed to expand markets for regionally-produced crops, fresh fruit and vegetables, meat, dairy products, eggs, other agricultural products, value-added products, ecosystem services, and any other potential returns accruing from agriculture.

Steering committee workgroups

Current initiative efforts are concentrated in the following four areas.

Access to Nutritious Food

Building on the work of food system stakeholders with a focus on food security and health impacts, develop strategies through which Ohio food and agriculture can help ensure that all Ohioans have equitable access to adequate, affordable and nutritious food for an active, healthy life.

Climate Smart Agriculture

Explore the potential impacts of changing climatic conditions on Ohio agriculture, and develop recommendations for both mitigation and adaptation to these changes, including ways to: maintain sustainable production of food, feed, fiber and energy, while also ensuring the integrity of natural resources.

Ecosystem Services

Explore ways for placing ecosystem services at the foundation of agricultural production in Ohio, both in terms of the basis for supporting production and

in terms of the benefits resulting from sustainable agricultural land management, such as green space and water quality.

Market Development

Valuing all forms, sizes and types of food, feed and fiber production systems, recommend: public policy frameworks; research, technology and infrastructure priorities (physical and social); market mechanisms; and risk management solutions that can be deployed to expand markets for regionally-produced crops, fresh fruit and vegetables, meat, dairy products, eggs, other agricultural products, value-added products, ecosystem services, and any other potential returns accruing from agriculture.

INITIATIVE IN ACTION: FIRST SET OF REGIONAL MEETINGS

The initiative is expanding with individuals and organizations identifying pathways to realize the Ohio Smart Agriculture vision. In March, we traveled the state to host regional forums with local leaders and steering committee members to expand the conversation and gather **YOUR** ideas and feedback to make this a reality.

Date	Location
3/5/2018	Piketon
3/8/2018	Springfield
3/14/2018	Bowling Green
3/15/2018	Wooster
3/16/2018	Lancaster

FORUM UPDATE

The forums included an introduction to the Ohio Smart Agriculture Initiative and a discussion of the preliminary findings and recommendations emerging from the project’s four work groups. Those participating in the forums validated the problems the project is seeking to solve and largely affirmed the draft vision statement that is serving as the OSA “North Star”. Feedback confirmed that they were directionally correct, but commenters identified the need to **move beyond a 30,000-foot discussion of pathways** to realize the OSA Vision and propose tangible and actionable initiatives that can produce the outcomes we seek.



For those who were not able to attend one of the forums, your views and input are important. We encourage you to email us (info@ohiosmartag.net) with your input on the following:

- The OSA Vision: Is it complete and bold enough?
- Ohio’s current state: Is it accurate? What is missing?
- Pathways to the OSA Vision: Are they appropriate?
- What recommendations might you have for near-term action initiatives?
- Any other comments or suggestions.

PATH FORWARD

The OSA Steering Committee is meeting April 24-25 at the Methodist Theological School in Delaware, Ohio to review input from the Regional Forums and continue to define and prioritize actions necessary to achieve the OSA vision.



OHIO AG UPDATE

According to the [United States Department of Agriculture Prospective Plantings report](#), corn acres will be 2% less than 2017, at approximately 88-million acres. However, Ohio is expecting an increase in acres. As the spring continues, weather and climate will impact planting progress.