

# SOLUTION ACTIONS



**OHIO SMART  
AGRICULTURE**  
SOLUTIONS FROM THE LAND

## PROGRESS IN THE PROCESS

This spring, lingering cold temperatures and abnormally wet conditions have created major challenges for Ohio farmers, reinforcing the need for further adaptive management research and practices. Meanwhile, work on the Ohio Smart Agriculture initiative continues. This month, the OSA Steering Committee will begin additional outreach to stakeholders, looking for feedback on the following suggested pathways:

- **Build and energize a Farm, Food and Health Partners Alliance to establish agriculture and the food system as a public policy priority.**
- **Encourage 21<sup>st</sup> infrastructure and markets that support development and processing of profitable, diverse products from the farming landscape.**
- **Encourage production of fresh, locally produced fruits, vegetable, meat, dairy, eggs & other edible food.**
- **Develop an agricultural workforce & workforce support system, including livable wages and healthcare.**
- **Protect/enhance landscapes and create an ecosystem services pathway/model through research and integration of farms, small plots, urban and forestry elements.**

## ALIGNED INNOVATION

### ***InFACT: “Setting the Table for Food Security”***

The Initiative for Food and AgriCultural Transformation (InFACT) is an interdisciplinary program at The Ohio State University with the mission *to transform the way we grow, process and distribute our food, leading to vibrant, sustainable and resilient agriculture that places nourishing food at the center of just and vital communities in Ohio and beyond.* They believe food systems to be the heart of society’s most challenging problems, which also leads to great opportunity to create solutions by affection how the food system works.

InFACT’s job is to highlight and clarify the critically important connection between the interests of farmers and consumers. There are four ways they intend to do that:

- Development of a comprehensive research agenda and diverse workgroups, including faculty, students and numerous external partners, to pursue such research.

- Design and coordination of a dynamic network of individuals and organizations that reaches throughout Ohio and beyond to establish a vision for the food system and the necessary policy objectives that will help us achieve it.
- Management of a robust set of programs that seek to assure the well-being of Ohio State campuses from the perspective of food access, landscape as it relates to food, curriculum and teaching, and equity across the food system.
- Building a broad-based platform for practical application of current knowledge and future research on food systems from across the university, including from the perspectives of business (i.e. entrepreneurship), law, public policy, and the social sciences.

Through these areas, InFACT is researching and engaging with Ohio Smart Agriculture and many other like-minded projects. Just like OSA, their work is not dependent on supporting one specific type of agriculture or scale of production. InFACT's role is, and will continue to be, bridging the gaps with research, practical applications and robust discussions, to move toward solutions that also bring opportunity to producers of all descriptions, and to connect these efforts to other groups in their network working to ensure food security for all.

## OSA LEADER SPOTLIGHT

OSA's leadership is comprised of many active, prominent Ohio leaders in public service, health care, environment, academia, food and agriculture. We would like to recognize a different member each month and share a bit about their passion for OSA.

### ***Fred Yoder***

Fred Yoder is a 4<sup>th</sup> generation farmer who has lived and farmed near Plain City, Ohio for over 40 years. Along with his wife Debbie and his two children, he grows corn, soybeans, and wheat. He has also operated a retail farm seed business for over 36 years, and sells seed to all kinds of farmers, working with those who need conventional, organic, or even bioengineered seed varieties to best serve their land and crops. We were lucky that Fred found some time to answer a few questions about his farm and his commitment to Climate Smart Agriculture.



*Why you are a part of OSA?*

**Fred:** As a board member of Solutions from the Land (SFL) and Chair of the North American Climate Smart Agriculture Alliance (NACSAA), we were approached by the Kellogg Foundation to consider a project in Ohio in regards to food security, sustainable intensification of our production systems, soil health, water quality, etc. that directly affects Ohio. We were fortunate to be able to partner with the Ohio State University and their InFACT program, which addresses many of these concerns. Even as we work on a global scale with these issues, it is clear that all things start locally. It is exciting to think about how what we do in Ohio could be used as a template for many other areas, since many of the same challenges exist elsewhere as well.

*What segment of the initiative are you most passionate about, and why?*

**Fred:** As co-chair of OSA, I am interested in all workgroups and their work. It [the collection of workgroups] all has to work together because there is undoubtedly overlap with cause and effect for many different workgroups.

## OHIO AG UPDATE: DID YOU KNOW?



June is strawberry season in Ohio! Did you know that in 2015, approximately 540 acres of strawberries were grown and harvested in the state? Ohio is one of the 10 top strawberry producers in the United States.

Between 1928 and 1939, the average **yield per acre** of strawberry fields in Ohio was close to 2,340 pounds. By 2015, that number was 4,300 pounds!

Strawberries are a delicious source of vitamin C and manganese, a trace mineral you need to stay healthy. One cup of fresh strawberries can fill 149% of your daily Vitamin C requirement. Have you checked your closest farmer's market for fresh strawberries today?

***Stay involved now!***  
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