



Ohio
Smart
Agriculture
SOLUTIONS FROM THE LAND

Ohio Smart Agriculture: Solutions from the Land – Excerpts from the News

[Coalition Recommends Changes to Agricultural Policies](#)

A new interagency task force and increased market infrastructure are a few of the ideas food bank advocates and farm groups have unveiled to boost the public policy profile of agriculture.

The group's [recommendations](#) focus on ways to reduce hunger and improve nutrition, create jobs and generate economic growth, and improve the environment while helping farmers thrive.

"This action plan is unique," Fred Yoder, chairman of Solutions from the Land and a co-chair of the Ohio Smart Agriculture Steering Committee, said in a statement. "We considered food, agriculture, the environment, and rural and urban communities as a system rather than separate challenges. This effort is about creating new options and opportunities for farmers, agriculture, and consumers that together benefit all."

April 5, 2019 – Update at Gongwer News Service (subscription only)

[New plan aims to reduce hunger, help Ohio farmers and better protect the environment](#)

"We're hoping it's going to be widely received because we tried to be so inclusive when we developed it ... from field to fork," said Fred Yoder, a fourth-generation farmer in Plain City who co-chaired the plan.

The project was facilitated by a national nonprofit group, Solutions from the Land, and Ohio State University's Initiative for Food and AgriCultural Transformation and took nearly three years to put together, said Ernie Shea, president of Solutions from the Land.

"If you want to move Ohio to a place where the quality of life is improved, where hunger is no longer a major challenge for the state, where health is improving, rural economies are thriving ... it takes coordinated, integrated action on multiple fronts," he said.

April 8, 2019 – by Beth Burger at The Columbus Dispatch

[New Report Identifies Changes To Improve Ohio's Environment, Benefit Farmers And Help Foodbanks](#)

A new report generated from a coalition of farmers, environmentalists, and food pantry organizers says Ohio needs to make changes to its existing policies on food. They say it will create more jobs, reduce hunger and improve the quality of air and water.

Lisa Hamler Fugitt with the Ohio Association of Foodbanks says the [report](#) outlines ways to be environmentally friendly while also creating jobs and helping provide food for Ohio's low-income citizens. For example, she says Ohio needs food processing companies.

“So much of the food that is produced here has to be shipped out of state to process and then shipped back into the state,” Hamler Fugitt says.

Hamler Fugitt says the goal of the report is to get lawmakers, industry leaders, and consumers to start looking at problems in a bigger way to provide more than one solution.

April 12, 2019 – by Jo Ingles at Statehouse News Bureau

Editorial: Smart-farming plan deserves support from policymakers

If farmers, researchers, environmentalists and hunger groups would listen to each other and change some of the ways they do things, Ohio could have more-prosperous farms, cleaner water, healthier people and less hunger. That’s the appealing message of the Ohio Smart Agriculture: Solutions from the Land project, and we hope the right people will listen.

Selling the message might be a challenge, starting with the Statehouse audience that heard a presentation on the project last week. Politicians like their programs to be simple and dramatic; Ohio Smart Agriculture is broad and complex.

Its value lies in the fact that it recognizes that food, farming, environment and climate are all parts of a system, and that action in one has an impact on the others. Efforts to address problems will work better if they take that connection into account.

April 12, 2019 – Editorial at The Columbus Dispatch

Better Land, Better Nutrition: A Blueprint for Ohio's Future

Feeding the world begins with feeding our neighbors is a message at the heart of a new call to action to create a better food system for Ohio.

Ernie Shea, president and CEO of the group Solutions from the Land, says farmers are facing increasingly complex markets, low commodity prices and volatile weather that exacerbates crop losses and degrades the environment.

At the same time, he notes, 15 percent of Ohioans don't know where their next meal will come from.

So the [Ohio Smart Agriculture: Solutions from the Land project](#) has developed a blueprint for tackling the challenges of hunger, poor health and environmental degradation.

"This is a massive undertaking," Shea states. "But the policies and programs of the past are not adequate to meet the needs of today and tomorrow.

“And that's why we're forging ahead with this groundbreaking call to action and approach to meeting the needs in Ohio.”

April 25, 2019 – by Mary Schuermann Kuhlman at Public News Service Ohio

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