

Ohio F2S Meeting Notes

March 11, 2021

National and Ohio Updates

Carol Smathers, Ohio F2S State Lead, Smathers.14@osu.edu and Haley Plahuta, Ohio F2S Program Assistant, plahuta.12@osu.edu

- Farm to Early Care and Education Coalition Expansion
 - Working on policy recommendations, serving local food in ECEs, and a procurement innovation
- Working on Growing Teachers Throughout the Seasons for teachers to teach growing activities throughout the school year
- Apple Crunch is the second Thursday of October- October 14!
- [Newsletter from National Farm to School Network](#)

Alison Patrick, Cuyahoga County Board of Health, Feed our Future apatrick@ccbh.net

- Local Food Procurement F2S Bid out now- soliciting vendors to provide local products for schools for next year
- Procurement spending is currently only \$10,000 away from last year's total spending
- Amazing partnership with Green Umbrella expanding FOF into Cincinnati

Kelly Corfman, Program Consultant, Creating Healthy Communities, ODH kelly.corfman@odh.ohio.gov

- Coordinators across the state are getting started on grant plans, prep work, and ensuring projects from applications in July still meet communities needs
- Building connections with food banks and pantries to establish nutrition standards

Tony Staubach, Extension Educator in 4H in Cincinnati staubach.9@osu.edu

- Starting Chick Quest, excited to connect with teachers again

Anne Schneider and Michaela Oldfield, Farm to School Coordinator at Green Umbrella in Cincinnati

anne@greenumbrella.org and michaela@greenumbrella.org

- Cincinnati Public Schools has Good Food Purchasing Policy for value-based purchasing and has doubled local purchasing from the first quarter to the second quarter of this school year. Do not use DOD Fresh so there is more flexibility to purchase local. They're also leveraging Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program which seems to be more flexible for purchasing local.
- Working on bid to follow Feed Our Future Model, developing HOTM kits, growers story kits, and TA to schools.
- Put out a F2S bid last year awarded to Creation Gardens and a lot of schools have already indicated interest.
- Working on spending flexibility- reach out if you're interested in joining.
- Working with National Farm to Institution Metrics Collaborative on consistent metrics
- Joined NFSN equity and evaluation working group. Green Umbrella doing a project with Community Voices to ensure those being served are represented.

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Ashley McDonald, Ohio Proud Program Manager at ODA ashley.mcdonald@agri.ohio.gov

- Represent foods, beverages, products that are 50% raised, grown or processed in the state.
- State Specialty Crop Block Grant Project Coordinator (fruits, vegetables, nuts, horticulture) application currently open through April 15. [Here is the information](#) on Ohio's SCBG program, including the RFP and application.

Marie Economos, Ohio State University Extension Educator for FCS in Trumbull County
economos.2@osu.edu

- Working with middle school students in Warren City Schools on cooking classes. Bringing supplies to schools and students bring them home. Learning about nutrition, new foods, and how to cook.
- The annual Food Service Conference will be July 28, always encouraging local foods and F2S

Corrina Gromley, SNAP Ed PA in Carroll and Columbiana Counties gromley.8@osu.edu

- Looking for inspiration and information on F2S opportunities in these counties. Many schools are SNAP eligible.

Valerie Jones and Jalessa Caples, Franklin County Public Health

valeriejones@franklincountyohio.gov and jalessacaples@franklincountyohio.gov

- New Franklin County F2S Coalition, focusing on health and nutrition education to K-12
- Launching Ohio Days gardening at home program this fall

Cheryl Graffagnino, Local Food Systems Strategist, Columbus Public Health cgraffagnino@columbus.gov

- Supporting Jalessa and CCS' work
- Working with Worthington to plan for F2S in the coming school years
- Still all hands on deck at CPH with vaccine distribution

Tom Redfern, Director of Sustainable Ag for Rural Action in SE Ohio tomr@ruralaction.org

- Partner with Live Healthy Appalachia (working on plant-based curriculum for 2nd graders) and Community Food initiatives on F2S. We do a lot of processing, aggregation of local food for K-12 and institutions. Partner with ACENET to purchase in season and process, freezing food and pioneered shelf stable tomato product being used by Fed Hocking, who is working on purchasing their own blast freezer to keep local food fresh.
- Community Food Initiatives, which has gardens in each district in Athens and started Sprouts project with educational kits for 1st graders that can be done at home.

Joy Kostansek, Local Food Connection at Creation Gardens, Columbus team member

jkostansek@whatchefswant.com

- Regional Food distributor with great local food options
- Thrilled that CPS renewed bid for another year so we can make sure growers are getting food in the ground
- Working with more districts and understand programming they're interested in to plan for crops
- If you know districts looking for distributor poised to serve local, contact Joy. Service everywhere but NE and NW corner
- We are looking to work with more producers in the central Ohio area- if you know of any interested in wholesaling, you can send them my way!

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Brian Davis, Assistant Director of Child Nutrition, ODEbrian.davis@education.ohio.gov

- Point person along with Elizabeth for ODE side of F2S Grant. Excited about linking producers and schools and growing the network.

Sue Hogan, 4H Educator in Franklin County hogan.239@osu.edu

- 4H project Green Teacher June 7-11. Series for educators on how to be a school gardener.
- Check out School Gardens of Ohio Facebook page for support with your school garden.

Molly Jo Stanley, Education Coordinator with Franklinton Farms mollyjo.stanley@franklintonfarms.org

- Operate on 12 scattered sites under 2 acres in Franklinton. Have become One of the largest producers of fresh fruits and veggies in Columbus after establishing community garden in 2007. Bringing opportunities for neighbors to learn how to garden, get their hands dirty, be a source of production of healthy produce. Within education, there is a learning garden, needed for kids to fall in love with growing the food.
- Background in environmental education.

Patrick Tegge, OSU SNAP Ed PSE Specialist tegge.3@osu.edu

- Working to support Farm to School with PA's throughout the SE region of the state

Dara Barclay, Ohio State Knowledge Exchange within CFAES barclay.67@osu.edu

- Working with Karima on K12 initiative to connect CFAES research with K12 audiences, hoping to loop in and support F2S

Elise August, first year MPH student working on Farm to School august.29@buckeyemail.osu.edu

- Just completed BA in nutrition and doing MPH practicum with Farm to School this summer

Kristina Windland, F2S Coordinator for Stark County Educational Service Center**kristina.windland@apps.sparcc.org**

- Serving all of Stark County school districts
- Working on Spring F2S activities- doing a seed distribution this year (handed out 26,000 seed packets last year), supporting gardens and starting new ones
- Usually do a 5th grade field trip throughout the county and working on virtual field trip this year with classroom activities.

Heather Neikirk, OSU Extension A&R Educator in Stark County neikirk.2@osu.edu

- Kristina and Stacey on Stark county SEC leadership team and continue working together on F2S.

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Stacey Bettis, Food Service Director in Stark, Carroll and Tuscarawas Counties bettiss@minerva.sparcc.org

- 53 Ohio SNA members plus students advocated in DC on March 10 for the effects of school meals to congressional reps! Position paper attached to email.
- Photos of farmer meetings, seed distributions, FOF work, and more went out to congress members.
- Schools still purchasing as much local as possible

Karen Bakies, RN with AMA MidEast and work for dairy farmers in Ohio and WV

karen.bakies@drink-milk.com

- Featuring a video of Cold Run Jersey Month that will be featured in April for Earth Day
- Did a local sustainability impact report on 20 50 goals to reduce carbon footprint—great for environmental class
- [Cold Run Jersey Farm in Salem](#), Ohio 5 min video on how a dairy farm works in OH
- [Dairy's commitment](#) to be carbon neutral by 2050 video on how dairy farmers in Ohio are working on this goal

June Wedd, AMA MidEast, leading school team june.wedd@drink-milk.com

- It is National School Breakfast Week! Doing Zoom sessions with schools and CLE Browns player, all kids and players had parfaits and smoothies. Schools include Granville, Ecole Kenwood, and Cleveland Public Schools. Talked about fruits, veggies, gardens and growing
- Fuel up to play 60 Grant. Schools can apply for large commercial blender [here](#). To apply, you must log on and be attached to a k-12 school.

Tina Robbins, OSU SNAP Ed PSE Specialist covering NE Region robbins.399@osu.edu

- Learning about what is going on and connecting SNAP Ed with programs

Teanya Norwood-Ekwenna, Promedica teanya.norwood@promedica.org

- Exploring F2S opportunities

Chris Weatherholtz, Farm to School Curriculum Coordinator K12, Columbus City Schools

cweatherholtz3151@columbus.k12.oh.us

- Students are coming back
- 64 schools with gardens and a lot more interest. Franklinton Farms helping teach in gardens.

Beth Bridgeman, bbridgeman@antiochcollege.edu

- Worked as 4H educator and now Sustainability Professor at Antioch College working on farm to cafeteria. Teach rescaling harvest courses
- Working at Arthur Morgan institute Community Solutions Center for regenerative Agriculture- BIPOC farmer training, teaching seed and grain school
- Links: <https://www.communitysolution.org/>, <https://www.communitysolution.org/blog/2020/8/31/speaker-spotlight-beth-bridgeman> , <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/nourishing-life-conference-tickets-137469479915>, groundedhope.org

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Leah May, new to Children's Hunger Alliance lmay@childrenshungeralliance.org

- Working on F2S and Farm to ECE updates

Ricardo Newell, College Educator and Personal Chef in NE Ohio gourmetgent@gmail.com

- College Educator and Chef in NE Ohio
- Learning more about farm to school, new member of Farm to ECE Coalition!

Lynne Genter, Federal Hocking Schools, lgenter@fhlanders.com

- Held the 3rd Planning and advisory Team meeting
- Team has decided to purchase a Blast Chiller so the school system can preserve fresh locally purchased produce June thru August to preserve for use during the school year.
- organized school garden teams for both school gardens-- " Garden Guardian Team " gathered local seed from a nearby farmer to plant seedlings.
- New logo for farm to school!

Tiffany McBride, NOCAC Head Start, NW Ohio tmcbride@nocac.org

- Been working on raised beds, tower garden Working on local procurement and using some of our own produce
- New member of Farm to ECE Coalition!

Haley Carretta, Public Health Dayton and Montgomery County as Food Systems Manager

hcarretta@phdmc.org

- Managing Food Equity Coalition in Montgomery County
- Last meeting attended was in March las year
- In early years of journey with F2S and excited to learn and grow in this region

USDA Farm to School Grant (see slides attached in email)

Overview (Brian Davis and Elizabeth Douglass)

This is a multi year grant that USDA extended due to COVID-19, designed to lead to sustainability of platforms created. We know it doesn't occur within the school year

Objective 1: Strengthen existing network

Objective 2: Doing a strategic marketing plan for Ohio kids, parents, educators in the success of F2S. ODA and ODE want to support, not reinvent the wheel

Objective 3: Raise awareness and promote locally grown food

Objectives 4&5: Producer training and local food procurement videos

Ashley McDonald:

- Will be behind the scenes on the grant with financials and making sure reports are submitted on time
- There will be a new Farm to School page under programs on the Ohio Proud Site

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Northeast Ohio, Alison Patrick, Feed our Future:

- Every child in the school building has access to local food, have anchored our work around local food procurement.
- Develop turnkey solution to farm to school including recipe videos, fun swag items, helping schools reduce barriers to farm to school for districts. Can be picked up and taken to another location
- Feedourfuture.org



Our vision: That every student, regardless of the school they attend, has access to fresh, healthy, and local foods.

Our approach: Local food procurement and turnkey solutions for the cafeteria, classroom, and community.

20 existing Northeast Ohio regional partners.
101 school districts interested for 2021-2022
school year



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East Central Ohio, Heather Neikirk, A&R Extension Educator in Stark County:

- Background in small animal ag, how food is produced and why ag is important
- Would like to create district profiles

Heather Neikirk, East Central Region



Mix of urban, suburban, rural districts
ESC centered Farm to School approach
Passion and focus for farm to table education
10+ years experience with Farm to School programming

Successes:

- Stark County Educational Services Center Farm to School Leadership Team
- Multiple USDA Farm to School Grant recipients
- Farm to School Field Trips
- Local Foods Procurement
- Community Outreach events
- Harvest of the Month-Cafeteria and Classroom resources

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Southwest Ohio, Anne Schneider and Michaela Oldfield, Green Umbrella
Everyone deserves access to local healthy food- mission that drives our work

Farm to School – Southwest Ohio

Michaela Oldfield, Director, GCFPC

Anne Schneider, Farm to School Coordinator, GCFPC

GCFPC's USDA Farm to School Journey

- Ohio Valley Food Hub Project
- Farm to School Planning Grant
- Regional Farm to School Action Plan



Local Food Procurement

- Cincinnati Public Schools
- United Purchasing Cooperative of the Ohio River Valley

Turn-Key Solutions tied to Local Food Procurement (The 3 "C's")

- Harvest of the Month
- Grower Storytelling
- Educational Partners
- Community Engagement



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Southeast Ohio, Tom Redfern, Rural Action

- Partnering with a lot of organizations in the region

Tom Redfern- Rural Action

We reach about 7 rural school districts in SE Ohio through various programs and initiatives

- **Farm to School Processing**
 - Educates school stakeholders, facilitates purchases from farmers (CPA) and coordinates processing and freezing in partnership with ACEnet and Hocking College
- **Apple Crunch Day**
 - We reach about 7000 students at 12 different schools in 5 districts
- **School Day at the Chesterhill Produce Auction**
 - A field trip for about 400 second grade students from 6 different districts
 - Teaches about local food system, sustainability, gardening, nutrition, and more



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West Central, Haley Carretta, Public Health Dayton and Montgomery County

- Starting F2S journey



West Central Region

Representative: Haley Carretta

Montgomery, Greene, Clark,
Champaign, Logan, Auglaize,
Shelby, Miami, Preble, Darke,
Mercer

Facilitators: interest from
residents & schools, nutrition
education, resources,
producers

Urban & rural settings

Barriers: Lacking policies,
systems-level work, lack of
contractor interest, competing
priorities

Approx. 160 school districts



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Central Ohio, Ohio State University Extension, Carol Smathers

- Looking forward to learning more about F2S activities in counties surrounding Franklin

Central Ohio

- Looking forward to learning about more F2S initiatives surrounding Franklin County
- F2S Efforts Include...
- Columbus City Schools, Ohio's Largest School District, F2S Program
- Columbus City Local Food Access Coordinator
- Franklin County Public Health F2S Coordinator
 - Ohio Days
 - New Columbus F2S Coalition

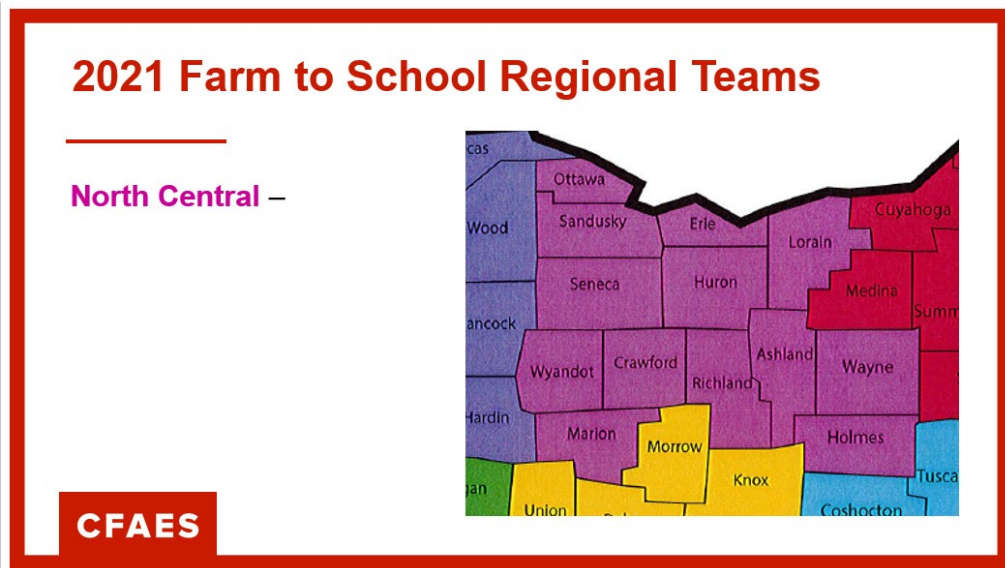


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Northcentral- still looking for lead!

Options: Kip Curtis, Gardener in Micro Farm, Wooster in Wayne, Shoshana and Whitney, Cloverleaf schools
 Cloverleaf is Carrie Beagle, Lima City School - Carrie Woodruff, Bob Gorman, Parma City Schools
 Reach out to ESCs in your region



Northwest- still looking for lead!

Toledo Public Schools, Tiffany McBride checking around, Promedica would like to engage stakeholders
 -Check Schools and food policy council
 -Many School Districts have wellness committees and these can be great points of entry for school districts

