

Ohio F2S Meeting Notes

June 10, 2021

National and Ohio Updates

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- Save the date! Apple Crunch is October 14, 2021. Save the date .png [linked here](#).
- Ohioapples.com is launched! Interactive site for finding U-pick, orchards and farm stands. Use #OhioApples for posts to populate to the site.
 - Reach out to Haley if you have ideas for Crunch events. Last year we created [this virtual crunch video](#).

Apple Crunch

- Goal of 1 million crunches
- Multiple save the date formats available
- Registration will be open soon!
- Ohio Apples Ohioapples.com



Knowledge Exchange Food System Campaign

- KX is including Farm to School in their upcoming food system map
- Think this [Maryland Food System Map](#)
- Farm to School related data can be displayed on the map
 - What data would be most helpful for you and your work?



- Knowledge Exchange (KX) at OSU- Karima samadi.2@osu.edu
 - KX is a research, integration, translation, and communication unit within the College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences at Ohio State. Audience is decision makers and stakeholders like those on the call to bring the info out to the community.
 - Working on creating a food system map similar to the [Maryland Food System Map](#) from Johns Hopkins. There are indicators in ag, health and environment to show picture of food system in the state. Can be used for outreach and grant writing.
 - What kind of Farm to School data would you like to see on the map? Looking at publicly available data but would love local level data.
 - Cheryl Graffagnino: CPH has worked on mapping and would love past mapping work to go somewhere. Encourage social vulnerability data.
 - Haley: Based on poll results, mapping farm to school partners around the state and which producers are selling to schools are two areas we would like to see.

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- USDA, NCAT and NFSN Producer Training ([linked here](#))
 - These organizations partnered to develop F2S training program for producers to market their products to schools, increasing sales to schools for farmers and F2S activities.
 - Found that producers are looking for info on supply and demand, logistics like delivery requirements, food safety, relationship building, etc. These are all included in curriculum. Curriculum is formatted to be two days but can cater to needs of each state.
 - ODA/ODE USDA F2S Grant has producer training component
 - Anne Schneider: Real success selling to schools has been through buying co-ops and food hubs instead of individual producers.
 - Milo P: OEFFA conference could work but we should talk more about the best avenue for this-price points schools can offer may not be worth the effort of more training for OEFFA members.
 - Noreen Warnock: We should talk with Farm Bureau about their ideas for producer training.
 - Lauren Preston: has contacts at Farm Bureau
 - Julialynn Walker: Develop a standard module in Ohio that address perceived barriers of selling to schools and work through how to breakdown those barriers. This could go to many likeminded groups.
 - Patrick: Reach out to Ag and Natural Resource Educators within Extension to gauge their opinion on the training.
 - Milo: OPGMA might be worth reaching out to.
 - Haley: Let's schedule a statewide conversation about this

Producer Training



- Producer Training from USDA, NCAT, NFSN
- Four Program Areas
- Takeaways in Ohio
 - Avoid growing season
 - Avoid traveling
 - Incorporating into pre-existing OEFFA conference
 - ODA and ODE USDA F2S Grant includes producer training



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Regional Farm to School Networks included in ODA/ODE Farm to School Grant

Farm to School Regional Networks

- Northwest – ?
- North Central – ?
- Northeast – Alison Patrick
- West Central – Haley Carretta
- Central – Carol S./Haley P.
- East Central – Heather Neikirk
- Southwest – Anne S./ Michaela O.
- Southeast – Tom Redfern



Regional Network Structure Practicum Work

- Elise August, MPH student at OSU
- Using network theory and models of other successful regional networks to inform F2S network expansion in Ohio
- Getting to know each region today and may follow up with regional leads on their successes, challenges, and suggestions for the region



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Breakout Rooms

- Introductions and F2S updates from your organization
- What are any current projects and initiatives related to Farm to School in your region?
- What Farm to School related success and challenges has your region had?
- Do you have regional meetings currently? If not, where might they fit in?
- Producer training
 - What needs in your region would the producer training fulfill?
 - Which areas of the producer training would be more or less helpful?
 - Would regional producer trainings or statewide producer trainings be more effective?
- Are there other Farm to School related resources or meeting structure guidance that might be helpful to facilitate the F2S regional networks?



Summary of the conversations guided by the above slide from the following regions:

Northeast (page 6 of [the jamboard](#))

- Alison Patrick (regional lead) Layla Lahoud, Tina Robbins
- Updates:
 - SNAP Ed would love to provide more nutrition education
 - Parma City Schools posting F2S coordinator position
 - Podcast on Producer Training with NCAT on collaborative purchasing and leveraging food hubs
- Challenge: Consistent purchasing for schools and need for basic culinary skills in schools.
- Not currently doing regional meetings, need to ensure there is commitment and agenda for this
- Producer trainings: need to determine value for producer to attend, how to make it worth their time, regional trainings would help build regional partnerships (who would do trainings and follow up?)
- Resources: PSE ready tool, shared meeting agendas across regions for consistency, shared minutes or notes to be aware but not duplicate efforts

Central (page 4 of [the jamboard](#))

- Carol Smathers (regional lead), Julia Lynne Walker, Lauren Preston, Karima Samadi, Karen Bakies, Cheryl Graffagnino, Leah May and McKenna Fry, Heidi Scarpitti, Kelly Corfman, Noreen Warnock
- Statewide efforts and local central Ohio efforts included in discussion
 - Franklin Co F2S coalition is connecting with local school districts to gauge what F2S activities are happening
 - CHC coordinators are developing plans including F2S activities
 - Statewide Farm to Early Care and Education Coalition working on local procurement pilots and food handling in ECEs
 - Food Corps and Senator Booker on legislation
 - ADA Mideast is doing an adopt a cow project

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Central (continued)

Producer training: regional trainings would be beneficial as central has such large districts. How to build off of existing chapters (like OEFFA, Farm Bureau, food policy councils, Extension Counties) rather than creating a new meeting. Ensure it's mutually rewarding.

West Central ([page 5 of the jamboard](#))

- Haley Caretta (regional lead), Marc Amante, Dara Barclay, Elise August
- Most of us live or work near Montgomery County. Very much in planning stages for F2S
- Interested in bi-monthly regional meetings to stay updated on F2S activities
- Producer training: new farmers could benefit from production training. Haley talking with hospitals about F2institution- farmers need to know what to grow and hospitals aren't sure. May need to collect data from hospital (or school) on how much of something they served the previous year to help farmers crop plan.
 - State does not require GAP certification but large districts definitely do.
 - Cost share for GAP certification for small farmers? Group GAP is happening.
 - Regional farm safety inspection for small farms?
 - Agree there needs to be worthwhile information for producers to attend training.

Southeast ([page 2 of the jamboard](#))

- Tom Redfern, Patrick Tegge, Haley Plahuta
- Challenges: Money is always an issue, wondering how other regions fund apple crunch?, processing food from farms for schools is a challenge
- Producer training: importance of food safety training, natural for A&R educators to teach training in counties there just isn't a curriculum for local produce as of now. Idea to do Ohio producer needs assessment for selling to schools. There is a lot of beef in the region to go to schools.

Southwest ([page 1 of the jamboard](#))

- Michaela Oldfield, Anne Schneider, Joy Kostansek, Kacy Massie
- Talked about options for Kacy as a food service director
- Update: about to launch Feed our Future in SW Ohio in fall with Harvest of the Month and Growers Storytelling Toolkit- super excited! CPS and additional districts have signed up.
- Fortunate to have local food connection and Joy as a partner. Joy: providing a tiered approach for FSD for local purchasing. They can choose to purchase local here and there, or do preplanning weekly, or a custom plan with various food groups weekly. Serving most of Ohio and partnered with Oberlin food hub in Northern Ohio.
- Need regular meeting structure with notes, newsletter, content stored somewhere regularly. Like same structure for meetings across the region idea from NE Ohio.

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Farm to School Spending Flexibility Discussion

Michaela Oldfield, Green Umbrella

School food service directors are working under incredibly tight budgets and restrictive regulations around what to buy and how to buy, making it difficult to buy local. Looking at how to create more flexibility for buying local within budgets and regulations.

Farm to School Spending Flexibility

Team is exploring these possible approaches to enhancing F2S spending flexibility

1. Establish a full FTE role in ODE for supporting F2S purchasing and training for FSDs
2. Pilot incentives or establish local procurement preferences
3. Address how DOD Fresh offers Ohio grown in FFAVORs
4. Advocate for universal school meals or expanded federal reimbursement in the Child Nutrition Reauthorization

Which of the above approaches might work, who are the stakeholders, who else should we be talking to, which questions should we be asking, etc.? See [this jamboard](#) to think through each approach and continue adding to it. Also see [this memo](#) Michaela wrote.

2021 Meetings

**Second Thursday of
the month 9:30-noon**

**September 9,
December 9**