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AgriNaturalist

COLLEGE OF FOOD, AGRICULTURAL, AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

Spring 2015 | Volume 121

Focus on *Food*

From **Urban Wetlands**
to **Lakeshore Learning**

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Stops Away





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FEATURE STORIES



PLANTING THE SEED

One man's journey to connect global youth and agriculture



IN-TOUCH AND OUTSIDE

Students at Stone Lab and at The Wetlands change learning



A NATURAL DISASTER

A look at the OARDC and Secret Arboretum five years after a devastating
tornado swept through the campus



GEE'S GREEN GOALS GO ON

Sustainability at Ohio State goes beyond the bowtie



DISCOVERING AGRICULTURE

Urban gardens are playing a part in spreading the message of the
importance of agriculture and impacting local communities



iAGRI

iAGRI program at The Ohio State University reaches out to Tanzania

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CHECK OUT THESE STORIES AND MORE ONLINE AT
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Meaghan L. Bennett

As I sit here surrounded by fellow students, faculty and staff in the College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences at The Ohio State University, I realize that I have been truly blessed to be a part of not only a wonderful institution, but an incredible industry filled with passionate, creative individuals.

Our industry is ever-changing and for those of us lucky enough to be involved, this is both an exciting and advantageous time to be in agriculture. This year marks the 121st issue of the college's magazine, the AgriNaturalist. For 25 bright and talented students, this issue is a testament to not only our education, but also our dedication to telling the stories of millions of farmers, ranchers, agriculturists and consumers throughout our college, country and world.

As you turn each page, we invite you to be engulfed in the many stories of our dynamic industry. Take a trip overseas as you read about one recent graduate's experience abroad on page 25, or take a step back to the 2010 tornado that destroyed years of research and progress at the Ohio Agricultural Research and Development Center and Secret Arboretum (OARDC) on page 39. We hope these stories and the many included in this volume will captivate your attention and fuel your passion for our great industry.

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AgriNaturalist is the official publication of The Ohio State University College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences. Its purpose is to give practical journalism experience to students and provide faculty, staff and students with a source of information about college issues and current events.

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MORE THAN A BUG GUY, MORE THAN A DEAN

By: Stacie Seger

Follow #CFAES on Twitter for a couple hours and you will see a plethora of tweets and retweets from @medflygenes. This social media butterfly is constantly talking about research, extension, The Ohio State University and, most frequently, students. As vice president of Agricultural Administration and dean of the College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences (CFAES), Bruce McPheron, Ph.D., extends both a real and virtual hand to stay connected to students. You never know when this self-proclaimed “bug guy” will just fly in to the room.

“I miss being a professor. I loved being in the classroom,” McPheron said. “I actually was in the classroom, essentially one way or another, right up until I came to Ohio State.”

McPheron finds himself missing the constant connection with students and the chance to see the faces of students when the information finally makes sense, due to his time with the steep learning curve of a new and complex institution with multiple campuses. McPheron was a faculty member in entomology at Penn State University from 1988 to 2012. He also served as the dean of the Penn State College of Agricultural Science from July 2009 - October 2012.

“I haven’t found my way back into the classroom yet, so my surrogate is interaction with as many students as possible,” McPheron said.

Dinner with the McPherons

To celebrate special holidays throughout the year, McPheron and his wife, Marilyn, invite student groups into their home for a home-cooked, festive dinner. CFAES student organizations such as the Student Council, Student Ambassadors and Minorities in Agriculture, Natural Resources and Related Science (MANNRS) enjoyed Halloween and Christmas parties this year.

“Marilyn and I have a strategy that we have brought to a new level with the groups of student leaders. We really try to engage and get them to the house for an informal time to get to know them better,” McPheron said. “It is not a complete sampling of the whole college, but it is one step to stay connected to students who are really active in the college and can help me understand what the students are up to.”

Gatherings at the McPherons’ residence provide a good opportunity for students to network among themselves but also give them a chance to get to know their dean more personally.

“When you invite people into your home and eat together, it’s a baseline of society,” said Kelly Newlon, study abroad specialist and CFAES Student Council adviser. “This opportunity enriches the student experience because they get to know their dean outside the traditional environment.”

Donuts with the Dean

The CFAES Student Council wanted to create an open forum for all students to interact with the dean and share their thoughts, as well as open dialogue for the dean to share his thoughts on the college. Further developing an idea from the Ohio State College of Arts and Sciences, CFAES Student Council sponsored a casual breakfast and conversation for the dean and his wife, college administrators and students.

“Donuts with the Dean gave our students a better chance to meet and talk to Dean McPheron, and I think the students had a very positive experience,” said Joey Brown, CFAES Student Council president. “It was encouraging to see that when the program was supposed to wrap up at 8:30 a.m., we had at least 20 students still hanging out.” This was the first year for the event, but the student council hopes to make it a tradition.

Behind the Scenes Outreach

When McPheron attended Ohio State from 1972-1976, many of the buildings on campus looked very similar. McPheron has put a great focus on the facilities to bring our classroom spaces up-to-date. He served as a key

supporter of the new library and student success center, Kottman Hall renovations and strategic plan of the new livestock facilities.

Working to adjust the need of our students, McPheron spends a third of his time on fundraising activities. The main benefit of those fundraisers is scholarships. He especially enjoys attending the scholarship banquet each year.

“I love the scholarship banquet because what I see when I look out at the front of the room is students making connections and telling their stories to people who have given back to the college because of the experience and story they had there. It is just real magic watching people connect,” McPheron said.

“Students are the reason I am here.”

The role of a dean is a demanding job with very little time off the clock, but McPheron balances the demanding schedule while still making time to connect with his students. Whether receiving a “hello” in the hallway or a shout-out on Twitter, CFAES students know they have a leader who values and supports them.

“The interaction between the students and the dean is important because students need to have connection to the leadership of the college,” Newlon said. “They need to have a sense that when the dean is making the important decisions of running the college, their interests have been heard. It builds trust within the college as well as rapport. Overall it makes the college experience better for students.”

I haven’t found my way back into the classroom yet, so my surrogate is interaction with as many students as possible.
- Bruce McPheron, Ph.D.

Centered on STUDENT SUCCESS

By: Stacie Seger

The College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Science (CFAES) is known for putting students first, and the latest construction on the Agricultural Administration building is a true testament to that commitment. Students wanted a place to study and work together in groups. They wanted a place to grab a bite to eat and a place to foster the CFAES community atmosphere. Based on those concerns, the brainstorming began.

Not a Normal Library

“When I returned to the college seven years ago, I noticed that we didn’t have learning spaces that fit the current way students learn,” Linda Martin, Ph.D., associate dean and director of academic affairs of CFAES said. “There was such a need for a space for students to stay on campus and study and work together in groups. We needed to be more dynamic in the way that we looked at the concept of a library or resource room.”

A committee of CFAES students, staff, faculty, administration and library leaders came together to develop the new space. As a joint collaboration between The Ohio State University Libraries and CFAES, the \$3.5 million construction project modernizes the old, musty library that was located in the Agricultural Administration basement.

“The old library was always very quiet, but that was because there was never much student traffic,” said Joey Brown, a fourth-year studying animal sciences. “It wasn’t a welcoming space for students to gather and work together. Some people didn’t know the college had a library. I am very excited for the new opportunities the center provides for our students. It is a beautiful and much needed space.”

The Space

The new library and student success center includes a large public study space with public computers and printers. Comfortable chairs around a fireplace and traditional tables and chairs that invite students to settle into a study environment that fits their needs.

The five collaboration rooms allow group study and teamwork with white boards and TV projection.

Two of the rooms also have video network capabilities. The collaboration rooms will also provide space for employers to meet students on campus. The CFAES Career Service Center launched “Employers on Campus” for employers to schedule office hours in the Student Success Center. During the office hours, students will have the chance to meet employers, hold mock interviews and review resumes.

The second floor of the new library and student success center houses the book stacks and quiet spaces to study. Although only one-third of the books in the old library are on display today, all books within the Ohio State University Libraries are available

We needed to be more dynamic in the way that we looked at the concept of a library or resource room.

- Linda Martin, Ph.D.

for checkout at the CFAES library front desk, library assistant Candace Lease said.

“It’s been wonderful to see the great turnout we have had so far,” said Lease, a third-year studying animal sciences. “The conference rooms have been a great resource for students, faculty and potential employers.”

In the near future, an enclosed courtyard and a small café will open for everyone to enjoy.

Open to all

From the very beginning, this project has been about the students – past, present and future.

“We know this college provides lots of opportunities for students to interact with faculty in many ways – whether it’s advising and mentor undergraduate student research, studying abroad, in the classroom. We wanted a place where we could reinforce that even more,” Martin said. “The new library and student success center was all of those spaces in one.”

Martin also hopes alumni will feel welcomed into the center. While they were not able to use the space as a student, she hopes it becomes a part of who they are, and they are proud of the opportunities it will provide our students.

Many know CFAES as a tight family and community. The new library and student success center is more than just a beautiful space; it’s a new space for students to feel at home. ■



CFAES Student Council

The goals of CFAES Student Council are to communicate the interests of students, sponsor activities, encourage rapport among students, faculty, staff and alumni of the college and school, and to serve as a medium for the exchange of ideas and publicity of events between organizations.



- BI-WEEKLY MEETINGS IN HOWLETT HALL
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Top 20 Seniors

Class of 2015

By: Megan Hunker



Caitlyn Black

Major: Culinary Science
Hometown: Marcy, OH
Person of greatest impact: Dr. Zerby. His classes were difficult, but his fun spirit and persistence for further learning always kept me wanting to attend his classes.



Joey (Albert) Brown

Major: Animal Science
Hometown: Edon, OH
Favorite college memory: My favorite college memory is winning the Ohio State, Midwest and then National Animal Science Academic Quadrathalons.



Brandon Colby

Major: Animal Science
Hometown: Houston, OH
Favorite college memory: 2014-15 OSU Football Season. It was quite a privilege to be a student during one of the most exciting times in OSU history.



Katherine Dowling

Major: Animal Science
Hometown: Cincinnati, OH
Advice: Take advantage of every opportunity Ohio State has to offer! I think it is really important that students take time to step outside their comfort zone.



Seth Erwin

Major: Agribusiness and Applied Economics
Hometown: Fayetteville, OH
Favorite college memory: Time spent with FarmHouse, specifically homecoming float build weeks.



Kelly Fager

Major: Agricultural Communication
Hometown: Wauseon, OH
Advice: Find a mentor on campus that can help guide you and serve as a resource during your undergraduate years and beyond.



Amanda Haines

Major: Agribusiness and Applied Economics
Hometown: Montpelier, OH
Advice: Don't let the fear of uncertainty keep you from getting involved and trying new things.



Hillary Hall

Major: Food Science and Technology
Hometown: Marysville, OH
Person of greatest impact: My dad, Dennis Hall. Having him around was helpful and he has always been a great motivator for me.



Natalia Jurcak

Major: Animal Science
Hometown: Bethlehem, PA
Advice: Never take for granted those who have impacted your life. Take time to appreciate their influence and let them know how much they have meant to you.



Michelle King

Major: Community Leadership: Community and Extension Education
Hometown: Xenia, OH
Advice: In the words of our favorite little blue fish, "Just Keep Swimming!"



Kade Louiso

Major: Sustainable Plant Systems: Agronomy
Hometown: West Union, OH
Person of greatest impact: Faculty of the Horticulture and Crop Science Department



Megan Moorman

Major: AgriScience Education
Hometown: Xenia, OH
Favorite college memory: Traveling across the country in a 12 passenger van with the OSU Livestock Judging team.



Caitlyn Mullins

Major: Meat Science
Hometown: Beavercreek, OH
Favorite college memory: Watching the Buckeyes beat Alabama at the Sugar Bowl in New Orleans.



Meghan Parsley

Major: Forestry, Fisheries and Wildlife
Hometown: Hilliard, OH
Person of greatest impact: Rob Denotn, my research mentor.



Samantha Parsons

Major: Animal Science
Hometown: Canal Winchester, OH
Favorite college memory: The time spent on undergraduate research. It was great to spend my time working on a project that was capable of helping so many others.



Sarah Peterson

Major: Agribusiness and Applied Economics
Hometown: Washington C.H., OH
Favorite college memory: Highlights have definitely been my study abroad trips to China and Brazil.



Stacie Seger

Major: Agricultural Communication
Hometown: Fort Loramie, OH
Favorite college memory: Being linked into the 108th class of SPHINX, Ohio State's oldest senior class honorary.



Kayla Starlin

Major: Agribusiness and Applied Economics
Hometown: Logan, OH
Advice: Don't be afraid to push your boundaries, all of them. And never, ever accept "no" as the final answer.



Samantha Ward

Major: Food Science and Technology
Hometown: Worthington, OH
Advice: Study Abroad! CFAES has a lot of great study abroad programs which are offered during the summer, winter or spring break.



Erin Williams

Major: Agricultural Communication
Hometown: McConnelsville, OH
Favorite College Memory: Anything and everything related to Buckeye Dairy Club.



Club Activities

Finding your place at Ohio State through clubs and activities

Agricultural Business

Farm Science Review pop stand
Annual club trip
Industry speakers: Farm Credit, Consolidated Grain and Barge

Agricultural Communicators of Tomorrow

Professional Development Night
Lindsey Hill Memorial 3-on-3 Basketball Tournament
Farmers Share event on the Oval

Agricultural Systems Management

Lawn Mower Club
Conservation Tillage and Technology Conference

Buckeye Dairy Club

Buckeye Classic Sale
Buckeye Royal showmanship competition
Cow on the Oval
Milkshake stand at Farm Science Review

Collegiate Cattlewomen

Buckeyes for Beef
Steak Cook-Off

Collegiate Young Farmers

Farm 2 Fork Table Talks
Industry tours
Ohio Farm Bureau Federation Connection

Forestry Forum

Christmas tree sale
Competing in timber sports at Conclave

Horsemen's Association

Pony Express
Trips: Quarter Horse Congress, Kentucky Derby and Trail Rides
Industry speakers: farriers, vets and nutritionists

Meat Science Club

Broomball
Hog roasts
Industry speakers and food demonstrations

Saddle and Sirloin

Livestock shows
Little International
Community service projects: Tie blankets, card/care packages for troops

The Fish and Wildlife Society

Student chapter of American Fisheries Association and The Wildlife Society
Professional Society partaking in different activities such as trapping, net seining, electrofishing, birding and camping



Ohio Agricultural Council

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- Ohio Agricultural Hall of Fame inductees
- Membership information



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some 3 billion gallons of fuel.

- The industry is supporting more than 62,000 jobs, generating billions of dollars in GDP, household income and tax revenues. • OSC has worked closely with the National Biodiesel Board to drive development of additional uses for biodiesel. One example: home heating fuel. New York City is already the nation's largest municipal user of biodiesel and recently implemented a 2% biodiesel blend mandate on heating oil.

To learn more about the Ohio Soybean Council and its programs to help Ohio soybean producers, please visit our website: SOYOHIO.ORG.



The Ohio Soybean Council (OSC) was founded in 1991 to manage the Soybean Promotion and Research Program — more commonly known as the soybean checkoff. OSC is governed by a volunteer farmer board, which directs the investments of the checkoff. The program's primary goal is to improve soybean profitability by targeting research and development, and education and promotion projects.



By: Tyler Butler

A series of charcoal-colored pillars at the center of The Ohio State University's campus contain 14.5 of the most coveted acres in Buckeye Nation. Ohio Stadium, often referred to as simply "the 'Shoe,'" is an icon of the Ohio college football season. Among Ohio State fans, game days will often trump birthdays, anniversaries and holidays.

With the celebration of a 42-20 victory over Oregon fresh in our minds, it's a miniscule task to name off the players and coaches that led us to a National Championship title. However, there is another team that works tirelessly to provide the fan base with an exceptional season.

The Turf

Brian Gimbel is the superintendent of athletic grounds at Ohio State. Gimbel leads his team of assistants and student employees, making sure that the facilities Buckeye fans know and love, the same facilities that are broadcast over national networks, are in tip-top shape for game days. "I told the administration we were going to win some games this year. We're going to need to have one good-looking field," Gimbel said.

Aerial shots of "the 'Shoe'" and campus maps plaster the walls of Gimbel's office. He steps away from his desk covered in field reports and reaches for something on a shelf a few steps away, eventually returning with a square foot of black FieldTurf.

Replicating a natural playing surface more closely than the well-known AstroTurf, FieldTurf has been a trend among athletic facilities since the late 1990s. The FieldTurf system is made up of polyethylene fibers that are woven into a polypropylene mat that resemble blades of grass. Once the mat is in place, an in-fill of three layers is deposited onto the field. The first layer consists of sand, the second of sand and cryogenic rubber and the third of rubber pellets. Ohio State made the decision to switch from AstroTurf to FieldTurf in 2007.

Maintenance

"After every game the sand and rubber become uneven," said Madison Hisey, a second-year agricultural business major and employee of the Athletic Grounds Department at Ohio State. As players rush across the field and dodge their opponents, they leave divots in the mixture of sand and rubber with their cleats. "It's our job to comb the field with large rakes and brooms on the back of tractors to smooth out the surface again," Hisey said.

"We paint, mow, irrigate, manage buildings and service live events for a total of 13 sports," Gimbel said "The students do

the real work, even down to unclogging toilets."

Mowing the natural practice football fields to 1.5 inches four to five times a week and painting marker lines at the coaches' request are just the beginning for these student workers. With staffed events every night and a multitude of other facilities under their supervision, Gimbel's team of 15-20 student employees are kept on their toes.

Keeping the Grass Green

Also on the radar in the field of athletic field maintenance is the worry of disease on natural surfaces. "People need to know that grass can get sick too," said Todd Hicks, the turf grass pathology program coordinator at Ohio State, "We keep the fields under a very preventative fungicide program, but sometimes it's just not enough."

Keeping the fields looking pristine means ridding them of any disease that may attack. The turf on the natural fields is under immense stress during the athletic seasons. Not only does grass battle extreme heat and humidity, a climate notorious for disease, but the athletes track back and forth on the plants, weakening them each day.

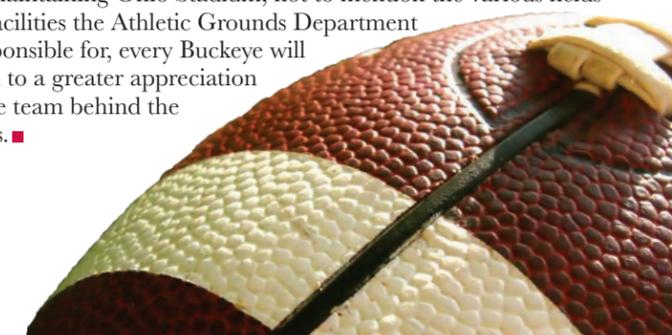
Research is continuously being conducted by the multiple departments at Ohio

State to help Gimbel make the right decisions for the fields. "Our research in the past includes management of surface thatch build-up, new cultivars of turf, management of stabilized turf, maintenance of synthetic turf, dyes and pigments and crabgrass control, just to name a few," said Pamela Sherratt, Ph.D., a turf grass specialist at Ohio State. Most research takes place at the Turf-Farm, located west of campus, rather than on the practice field like in the past. This is due to comedic reasoning: "The fields that people come to see just look a little off when there are multiple colored application plots in either end zone or across the field," Gimbel said.

"People think, artificial field? That can't be that big of a deal," said Gimbel. However, in the light of all of the effort that goes into maintaining Ohio Stadium, not to mention the various fields and facilities the Athletic Grounds Department is responsible for, every Buckeye will be led to a greater appreciation for the team behind the scenes. ■

I told the administration we were going to win some games this year. We're going to need to have one good-looking field.

- Brian Gimbel



THE FIGHT AGAINST PEDV

Protecting the swine industry from a lethal disease

By: Tonya L. Fender

One morning you walk into the barn and immediately sense something is wrong. The smell of diarrhea is so strong you almost cannot breathe, and the sound of pigs vomiting sends instant fear throughout your body. Imagine being a swine producer and watching all of your baby pigs younger than two weeks of age die of dehydration. All of the other pigs suffer from the disease, but can survive with close care and management from the producer. The diagnosis is Porcine Epidemic Diarrhea virus (PEDv), a new, potent disease in the swine industry that is powerful enough to diminish an entire pig crop.

Concise facts about PEDv

Most producers cannot pinpoint how their herd contracted the disease. The primary agent is through imported blood meal that contained the virus that is then used for swine feed in the United States. PEDv is a highly contagious disease that can be spread in numerous ways through their feces. Even the highest protection against PEDv might not be enough to prevent the disease from entering the herd. However, if resilient biosecurity measures are taken, the introduction risk can be significantly lowered and swineherds can avoid fighting the devastating disease.

Initially, PEDv takes four to six weeks to infect an entire herd and run its course. Every pig over two weeks of age needs to be contaminated to develop immunity to the disease. During this time, pigs of any age suffer from dehydration primarily caused by diarrhea, vomiting and loss of appetite. The virus is most deadly to baby pigs less than two weeks of age as they drink PEDv-infected milk from their mothers.

According to Steven Moeller, Ph.D., an associate professor of animal sciences at The Ohio State University, in the United States, three strains of the virus have been confirmed, which effected or killed 7-10 million pigs last year. Numerous producers took this hit across the United States. While 2013's winter months showed the highest number of confirmed PEDv cases in the nation, 2014's numbers are significantly lower. Thus far this year, the number of confirmed PEDv cases are considerably down.

Extreme biosecurity precautions

The message to the swine industry to eliminate PEDv problems has been simple: "Use strong biosecurity measures to lock down your herds the best you can," said Moeller. Many swine farms seek isolation from the outside world and monitor traffic on the farm. Some farmers even question allowing mail carriers to deliver packages to their farms due to the unknown.



Similar disinfection procedures have been advised for trailers that haul pigs to the slaughterhouse. "There is an increased risk of contamination when hauling pigs," said Moeller. Intensively disinfecting items, as proven in a research study led by Ohio State, "may not disrupt the RNA of PEDv to where a polymerase chain reaction (PCR) test will not detect it," said Andrew Bowman, Ph.D., assistant professor at the Department of Veterinary Preventative Medicine at Ohio State. "Very strong corrosive chemicals that are not feasible to use on the farm are the only disinfectants that disrupt the RNA of PEDv to a point where the PCR test cannot pick it up. " Even when a truck and trailer have been thoroughly disinfected, there is still a chance for them to come back PEDv-positive, but that does not mean the hogs in the trailer will be infected. A swine producer must live with the fear and risk of using equipment that tests positive for PEDv but might not transmit the disease.

Another resource for swine producers is to have a veterinarian come out to the farm to check for any breaches in the farm's biosecurity plan. "Swine producers often call me to go over their biosecurity plan to double check their procedure to make sure I can not detect any sources they may not have been thought of that could bring the virus into the farm," said Daryl Waits, DVM, a veterinarian at Fayette County Animal Hospital and Ohio State graduate. "In a way it helps their peace of mind."

For producers looking to primarily market their hogs to youth participants as 4-H projects, there is a level of uncertainty about what the buyer could unknowingly bring when coming to purchase a pig. Shipley Swine Genetics is a hog operation that sells 4-H projects, bred gilts and seedstock across the nation and has been able to protect their herd against PEDv. "We did not allow anyone on the farm to select their 4-H projects," said Josie Shipley Snyder, office manager at Shipley Swine Genetics. "They told us a price and breed and any other specifications and we selected the pig based on that and loaded them out in the parking lot across the road from the operation."

The fear of contracting PEDv has not decreased for hog farmers since its initial outbreak, but the measures against it have stepped up. No hog producer wants to open the barn door on an ordinary day to a sick herd infected by PEDv. Then taking the next four to six weeks day by day after spending exhausting hours in the barn hoping that the potent disease does not kill the entire pig crop. All while wondering if there was something more that could have been done to prevent PEDv from infecting the hogs in the herd. There is no guarantee against the herd contracting PEDv, but self-measures can significantly lower the risks. ■

Buckeye Dairy Club



Check us out!



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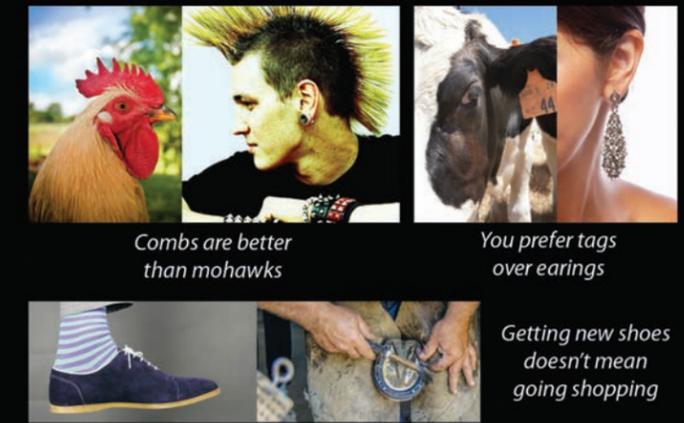
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Lynn Wischmeyer Moore

**2011 Food Science & Technology
Project Manager
Nestle Product Technology Center, Southern Germany**

Career:
While Lynn was still in college, she had the opportunity to intern with Nestle's Solon, Ohio location, which then transitioned into a full-time job after graduation. Her current role as project manager came with more responsibility and a more strategic role. She looks at the bigger picture to help project teams collaborate and work smarter. With this new role also came a big move to Germany. Lynn said that this transition was smooth since the company guided it and there were also other international employees in Germany experiencing the same transition. She took this opportunity because she always knew she wanted to travel internationally.

Advice:
"Be very open to any possibility that comes your way, but also be as clear in your objectives as you can. No one else can make your objectives happen but you."



Jesse Dotterer

**2006 Agribusiness & Applied Economics
2008 Masters in Economics | University of Illinois**

Career:
While at Ohio State, Jesse completed two study abroad programs that opened his eyes to the world of agriculture, different cultures, customs and business practices. Overall, these experiences were the most influential experiences in his college career because of this exposure. Upon graduating from Ohio State Jesse wasn't interested in the jobs that seemed available to him. They didn't seem challenging enough. This enticed him to get a master's degree. After completing his graduate studies at Illinois he realized that he had an interest in research, but wanted to impact people more immediately. He then moved to New Zealand for a year to work with Agrisearch Limited. After coming back to the states, he moved to Nebraska to take a job with Water Street Solutions to help people assess risk management using futures and options tools. He most recently followed his wife to Iowa with their newborn baby boy.

Advice:
"If I had it figured out, it would be easy to give advice. I think what I would say is don't let your career get in the way of your life. It's not always about a career. A well-balanced life is much more fulfilling than a life based solely on a career."



Michelle Beres

**2013 Agribusiness & Applied Economics
Guest Service Manager/Guest Relations Hostess
Disney World**

Career:
For Michelle, the transition from Ohio to Florida was a pretty easy one as she is originally from Georgia and has already undergone the transplant process. The toughest part was the shift from an unpredictable student schedule to a set work schedule. At Disney, Michelle started as an intern and received the opportunity to move into a full-time position.

Advice:
"Stay in touch with people that you meet in college whether it be faculty, staff, other students or industry members."



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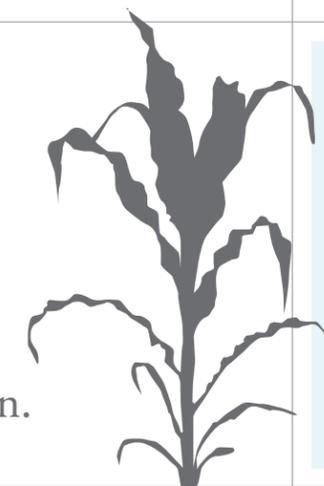
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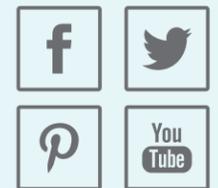
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The 2014-2015 CFAES Year in Review

By: Diane Gress

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- Aug. 2014**
New CFAES students arrived on campus
- Sept. 2014**
The Farm Science Review attracted over 130,000 visitors
- Oct. 2014**
OSU Livestock Judging Team won Keystone contest
- Nov. 2014**
CFAES hosted Stop Hunger event
- Dec. 2014**
Pres. Drake spoke at CFAES Extension Annual Conference
- Jan. 2015**
Environment and Sustainability Career Expo was held
- Feb. 2015**
New CFAES Student Success Center was opened
- Mar. 2015**
CFAES welcomed the 2015 Ambassador Team



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PLANTING THE SEED



One Man's Journey to Connect Global Youth and Agriculture

By: Meghan Bennett

Reflecting back to last spring, Dustin Homan felt very happy with both his life and his career. He had graduated from college, leaving The Ohio State University with wonderful memories and a first-rate education from the College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences. From there, Homan went straight into the working world, first as a business analyst for Adayana and then as the program director of education and market development for OBIC Bioproducts Innovation Center. He was living the dream of any Ohio boy associated with agriculture.

But there was still something missing.

Getting Back to Africa

During his undergraduate career, Homan traveled to Kenya as a student intern with the World Agroforestry Centre. It was there that his love for international agriculture began to grow, and it was this love that eventually brought him back to Africa. "When I came back from my experience in Kenya, I felt like I had left a bit of my heart in Africa," Homan said. "I knew I always wanted to get back there in some way."

Soon after his return, Homan reconnected with an old acquaintance. Trent McKnight, a lifelong rancher and businessman, was Homan's mentor during his run for a national

FFA office. While working with Dustin, McKnight asked Homan to help him brainstorm ideas for a Peace Corps-like organization.

These ideas later developed into the organization AgriCorps, which connects American agriculture volunteers to the demand for experiential, school-based agricultural education in the developing world.

Being in Ghana, I've learned that getting the scholarship or award doesn't really matter. The relationships are what matters.

- Dustin Homan

about AgriCorps quickly turned into a full-blown interview, and before Homan knew it he was faced with a life-changing decision. Should he stay home and continue on like any other day, or take a risk that could change him and his life forever?

"This has been one of the most incredible spiritual journeys for me," Homan said. "I knew I wanted an experience in international agriculture, but the timing just didn't seem quite right. I had a lot of good stuff going on at OBIC. I was also in an apartment lease until August, was paying on a new car, and had no idea what I would do with my cat, Zeus."

"It's amazing how you look back in the past and see how some of these thoughts seem to connect," Homan said. "A few years after Trent and I originally sat down and discussed his idea, AgriCorps emerged and was about to launch for its first year recruiting volunteers."

Taking A Leap of Faith

What started out as an inquiry about AgriCorps quickly turned into a full-blown interview, and before Homan knew it he was faced with a life-changing decision. Should he stay home and continue on like any other day, or take a risk that could change him and his life forever?

But just like with anything that is meant to be, everything started coming together. Before Homan knew it, his rental company had let him out of his lease, someone wanted to purchase his vehicle, and a friend had offered to take Zeus. He felt like his decision was pretty obvious. "When all of these things happened in the span of two months, I couldn't ignore it. These signs combined with a personal mission to connect agriculture with education in youth development led me to where I am."

Making A Difference In Ghana

For over eight months, Homan lived, worked and adapted to life in Koforidua, Ghana as the deputy chief of party for AgriCorps. During his time abroad, Homan was in charge of strategic design, action plans, training of 4-H advisors and resource mobilization.

From the 4-H Ghana headquarters, Homan, along with six other team members facilitated the 4-H program in this region of Africa through partnerships with schools and fellow educators. By the end of the program, Homan and his team were responsible for the addition of several new 4-H clubs.

"In Ghana, 4-H is a little bit different," Homan said. "The majority of the 4-H programs are school clubs, much like FFA in the U.S. Five of our team members worked in junior high schools serving as both teachers and advisors. One member of our team also worked as a teacher in a teacher's training college nearby."

Trent McKnight, founder of AgriCorps, said that the true goal of the organization is threefold. First, AgriCorps strives to give eager American students a successful experience working in a developing country. "We want to shape our core members both personally and professionally as individuals so that when they return to the U.S., they have a broad perspective in global agriculture that makes them a star candidate for a career and broadens their personal perspectives."

The next area of impact is cultivating young leaders in developing countries who are committed to developing farming as a science and business. "This focuses on the 4-H members in Ghana. We are teaching them that agriculture is a decent business that you can make a living at, not a socioeconomic condition," McKnight said.

The final area of impact involves food security in developing countries. "AgriCorps strives to introduce new technology and methodology to young farmers in these developing countries. We believe that young people are early adopters of technology and that we can transfer these new technologies and methodologies to

the parents of these young people throughout their communities," Homan said.

Being One of A Kind

Bob Birkenholz, Ph.D., professor of agricultural and extension education at Ohio State, said that the international success of his former advisee comes as no surprise to him. "If we could clone Dustin, we would take as many students just like him as we can. He is truly one of a kind. I've been an adviser for over 30 years and he is one of my overall top students that I have ever gotten to work with. I am really anxious and excited to see what he is going to do in the future."

McKnight also explained that Homan's previous experience, both with 4-H and FFA, as well as professionally, made him an integral part of the success of this inaugural team. "Dustin brings a wealth of leadership and administration experience to the table, as well as his understanding of agricultural and teacher education. While in Ghana, Dustin trained all of the 4-H club advisors in positive youth development. These skills have really helped to advance 4-H in Ghana."



Homan speaking with a representative from mFarms in Ghana.
Photo Credit: Allison Hoover

The Next Step

For both AgriCorps and Homan, the future looks very promising. "One of the most rewarding parts of this experience was seeing the renewed vigor in the office. I think this is a result of when new ideas come in and people bond around these ideas," Homan said. "It's incredible to see a sense of hope in growing 4-H in Ghana. While in Africa, our team met with the

national ministry of education. Our team was granted approval to expand across the entire nation. We went from a little non-profit to having the authority to go anywhere."

Upon his return from Africa in March, Homan began working with Ohio State Extension as the program director of animal sciences and 4-H ambassadors. He will also start his master's degree in agricultural and extension education at Ohio State in the fall of 2015, and one day hopes to be a professor at a university, teaching his passion for youth and global agriculture to future students and educators. But for now, he is still marveling at his latest experience abroad.

"This whole experience has really taught me about service. Being in Ghana, I've learned that getting the scholarship or award doesn't really matter. The relationships are what matters. And I am so thankful that I got to experience that." ■

Now

Stop Hunger

By: Erin Williams

The room had an energy that could not be denied. Hundreds of hairnet-and-glove-clad volunteers moved nimbly and efficiently, carrying boxes, filling bags and taking measurements to meet their shared goal. Everyone moved with a purpose, creating a pleasant chatter as they worked that echoed the thumping bass from the loud speakers. There wasn't a frown or still body to be found.

That night, 75,000 meals were packaged by nearly 350 volunteers at the Stop Hunger Now event. It took a mere three hours for The Ohio State University students, alumni and community volunteers to help make a difference in the lives of those in need and help beat 'that team up north.' The event was hosted on the Monday night of Beat Michigan week by the College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences (CFAES) and the student organization Buckeyes Against Hunger.

A Night to Remember

"There's a lot of momentum on campus during Beat Michigan week. The energy, the excitement, the enthusiasm was great," said Jill Tyson, CFAES coordinator of Prospective Student Services, who sat on the Stop Hunger Now planning committee.

Mary Siekman, a CFAES agricultural communication sophomore, was also involved in the planning committee as a representative for Buckeyes Against Hunger. "If I had to choose the single moment when I felt the most proud to be a Buckeye, this would be it. It was so humbling to have been a part of something that had such an impact – I think that is what being a Buckeye is truly about," Siekman said.

The trick to making the event a success was securing the volunteers. Buckeyes Against Hunger worked with the CFAES Student Council to encourage students from Greek life and student organizations to get involved. Alumni learned about the opportunity to give back from the OSU Today newsletter and on the college's and university's websites.

The outpouring of support was overwhelming. "What we didn't expect was the flood of people who walked in that night without registering, which was awesome," Tyson said. Tyson also noted that Stop Hunger Now commended Ohio State for its strong

social media presence surrounding the event, saying that it was one of the most well-promoted events the group has held on a college campus.

What is Stop Hunger Now?

Stop Hunger Now hosts customizable meal-packaging events to send to those in need worldwide. They're known for their rewarding, hands-on approach to hunger education and support.

Joey Brown, animal sciences senior and CFAES Student Council president, said, "The event was so upbeat and fun that you barely noticed that you were working hard and actually breaking a sweat. It was impressive to see that we could do so much in that short amount of time."

As the saying goes, time is money. The students donated their time in exchange for gratification and free pizza, but hosting an event of this scale was not cheap and the idea didn't appear from thin air. The H.J. Heinz Company, a regular supporter of Ohio State, presented the idea to Bruce McPherson, Ph.D., CFAES dean, and together they made the idea take flight. Heinz underwrote the 75,000 meals as part of the Heinz Micronutrient Campaign, paying the 29 cents that each meal cost.

The dehydrated meals consist of soy, rice and 23 essential vitamins and nutrients. Although CFAES didn't have a say in where the food for packaging came from, they were pleasantly surprised to find that the nutrient sachets in every meal were not only locally sourced, but from a company founded by CFAES alumni.

The vitamin sachet packages were made by Coalescence LLC. Angela Cauley and Ian Blount founded the Columbus, Ohio company in 2005 and have since turned it into a \$20 million enterprise.

"People were just so happy to have helped and so excited for what they had accomplished, and that made you feel really good about the time that was invested and the impact we could make as a college," said Tyson.

When asked to summarize her Stop Hunger Now experience, Krysti Dubler, CFAES community leadership senior, simply said, "Where can I sign up for next year?" ■

If I had to choose the single moment when I felt the most proud to be a Buckeye, this would be it.

- Mary Siekman

Cattle Industry Battling Hunger in Ohio

By: Hayley Beck

Imagine not knowing where your next meal will come from or going to bed hungry every night. For one in six Ohioans, this is a reality and not just an imagination. In an effort to combat this growing issue, Ohio agricultural commodity initiatives have been created to help battle this terrible problem that is being faced worldwide.

Great American Milk Drive

The American Dairy Association (ADA) currently is running The Great American Milk Drive. This is the first-ever nationwide program that hopes to bridge this gap by encouraging consumers to donate milk to hungry families. The efforts of the initiatives are being supported in Ohio by the American Dairy Association Mideast, which represents Ohio's nearly 2,800 dairy farmers.

The Great American Milk Drive is made possible by the nation's milk companies and dairy farmers partnering with Feeding America to elevate awareness of the immediate need for milk in America.

"Feeding America is the nation's largest network of food banks," said Jenny Hubble, vice-president of communications at ADA Mid-East.

Milk is one of the most heavily requested and nutrient-rich food items in food banks, said Hubble. Milk is rarely donated and desperately needed in food banks. Hubble added that the country's 37 million food bank clients receive less than one gallon of milk per year.

Donations to the milk drive can be made online or via text message. Donors can ensure that the milk benefits their community by entering a zip code when donating. The Buckeye Dairy Club at Ohio State decided to donate to this cause as a way of philanthropy, said Erin Williams, student at The Ohio State University and Buckeye Dairy Club president. "The club donated \$500 to the Great American Milk Drive in December. During the month of December, the milk drive was matching all donations so it was a perfect time to donate," Williams said. The \$500 donation quickly turned into \$1000 to buy milk for families that truly needed it.

Beef Industry Involvement

Another way that Ohio agriculture is helping to battle hunger is the Ohio Cattlewomen's Quilt Raffle. Every year the Ohio Cattlewomen's Association sells raffle tickets for a chance to win a quilt. The money raised from the raffle tickets goes to buying beef for food banks in a particular district. The state is divided into 12 districts and every year a different district is chosen to receive the beef.

After 12 years of this community service project, the Ohio Cattlewomen decided to take a different direction and make the prizes more specific to each district. This year District 2 will benefit from ticket sales. The first-place prize is a Picking copper kettle, which is a product from Seneca County and the second-place prize is a blanket chest. "All the profit from ticket sales goes to buy beef in the respective district; that ranges anywhere from \$800 to \$1500," said Kathy Sautter, an Ohio Cattlewomen's member.

The Ohio beef industry is also helping to alleviate hunger in Ohio by holding an annual Beef Day at the Ballpark during a Columbus Clippers Game at Huntington Park in Columbus. In past years, this event has focused

Milk is one of the most heavily requested and nutrient-rich food items in food banks.
- Jenny Hubble

on 'Striking out Hunger with Lean Beef'. "The 2014 event was not focused on any hunger initiatives. The Ohio Beef Council is hoping to incorporate the 'striking out hunger' theme again in the future," said Katie Gossett, Ohio Cattlemen's Association director of communications.

The Ohio Beef Council also partners with Kroger during the Ohio State Fair as another way to help beat hunger. Kroger donates beef cuts to display in the cooler in the Voinovich Building during the fair. As the meat is changed throughout the duration of the fair, the beef is donated to the Mid-Ohio Food Banks.

These are just a few examples of how Ohio agriculture is helping to end the battle of hunger in Ohio and across the nation. One commodity cannot end hunger alone. It will take collective efforts from the entire agricultural industry to end this problem. Supporting these organizations and their initiatives will help lighten the impact hunger has across the state. ■

292,112 Gallons Donated Nationwide

17,694 Gallons Donated in Ohio

Source: Great American Milk Drive web-



In Ohio, *One* in every *Six* battle hunger daily.

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Source: Ohio Beef Council website



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Playing with Food



By: Jennifer Kapalin

It's another quiet Thursday morning at Stephanie Eakins's house as she sips her Vermont breakfast blend coffee. She checks her long list of emails and gets ready for her day in the peace and quiet of her own home. A few months ago she would be rushing to work and getting stuck in road rage traffic. Eakins was a manager in the "corporate world" in downtown Columbus, where she worked hard to provide for her two daughters.

It wasn't until the passing of her mother that she started to realize how fragile life is. This made her realize that she wasn't happy with what she was doing and that she wanted something more fulfilling. Eakins now runs her own business called Retro Dinner Diva where she makes fresh freezer meals for busy families. Eakins found something more satisfying about running her business out of The Commissary in Columbus, Ohio.

The Commissary is a community kitchen that is open to the community for use. A community kitchen allows people to rent space in a regulated kitchen without having the cost of actually owning their own building.

The idea began when Kate Djupe, a 2007 graduate of

The Ohio State University's hospitality administration and management major started making her own baby food for her children. When her friends wanted to buy her product, she did her research and found that the food had to be made and stored in a commercial kitchen. "The more I talked about this idea of a kitchen where I could make baby food and other businesses would be able to use it to develop their business, the more I found people who needed it," said Djupe.

Joining Food Forces
Business owners, entrepreneurs and farmers use the space to prep their vegetables or meat for sale



as well. Ashtabula county farmer Ed Worso knows how a community kitchen would be important for growers. "For us, it's about preparing our own food and knowing where it comes from," said Worso. Business owners rent out a space in the kitchen for a certain amount of time. They will then have full use of that

area, including utensils, to produce or prep their food.

Djupe imagined the community kitchen as a space for multiple purposes, including a place for storage and a place for food trucks to load and unload their equipment. Also, she wanted an event space where community members could converse and create. Above all, she wanted a place for a new business to be able to get its start in the food industry. This would be a place of collaboration, invention, involvement and the creative preparation making of food.

"We haven't been open very long, but in the time that we have been open, the things I dreamt about, I'm starting to see them happen," said Djupe. "If you have a kitchen, why not have space where the people who are building their businesses can have tastings with clients, popup restaurants where they can help develop their market?"

Kickin' it in the Kitchen

As you walk through the building you find the spotless kitchen adjacent to the wall of spoons, which all have donors' names carved into them. Beyond the spoon art is a dining area for events and functions. The space that separates a private kitchen and the murals of art is the "cake pan library." This is a common space with couches, cookbooks and cake pans that can be borrowed. The space for the food trucks is a drive-in loading dock where business owners can load their food without

being outside in bad weather. Each space was well thought out and designed for future users of the space.

Local businesses like Retro Dinner Diva rent out a space in the kitchen, a fridge/freezer and even a dining room for parties. Eakins is a perfect example of how a small business gets started at The Commissary. She started following the progress of The Commissary as a future place to develop her product. "I love it. There's so many cool things going on. The nice thing is getting to meet other people and share ideas. Pretty cool sense of community here," said Eakins. This arrangement works out for Eakins. When she has a slow week, she can rent fewer hours in the kitchen without the overhead costs.

After years in the making, Djupe's dream of a community kitchen is finally underway. "I'm seeing chefs in the community collaborating to try new things, I'm seeing the people who typically work the same menu in a restaurant every day, come and playing with their ideas," said Djupe, "I'm finding that when there's that freedom to play with food, they are making something really amazing and interesting and it's delicious and makes me excited."

What started off 15 years ago as an idea for a 2,000-square-foot space is now an inspiration for chefs, farmers and business owners in Columbus. Who knew that a kitchen could bring a community together in a scrumptious and tasty way.



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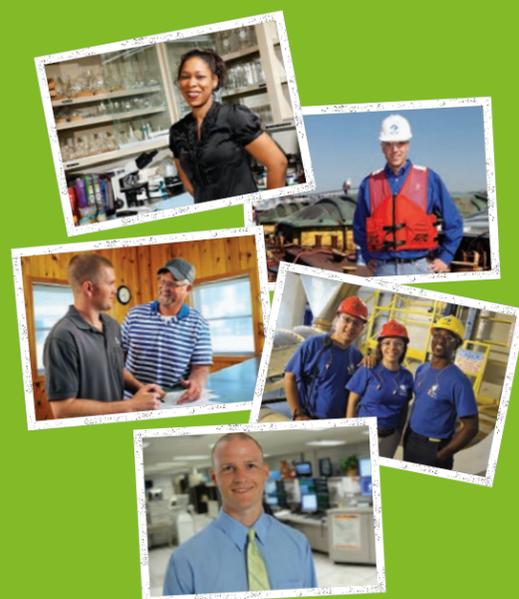
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Utah Native Changed

By: Devon Alexander

Think back to 1992. Where were you at in your life? Maybe you were starting high school, college, your first job or maybe you weren't even born yet. Had you changed jobs, bought a new house or moved to a different city? So much has probably changed in your life within the past 23 years. On the contrary, Keith Smith, Ph.D., has held the same position for the same institution within the same city for the past 23 years. So how much change has been a part of his life during this time? A lot.

Smith, director of Ohio State University Extension and associate dean of the College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences at The Ohio State University since 1992 has announced his retirement effective June 30, 2015. During his 23 years of leadership within extension and higher education, Smith's legacy will be marked by the people he has influenced.

Utah Native Turned Buckeye

Smith, a native of Utah, received his bachelor's degree (1974) and master's degree (1976) from Utah State University where he studied agricultural education. He went on to receive his Ph.D. in agricultural education from Iowa State University in 1980. He began his career as an agricultural educator in Brigham City, Utah. He later joined the Utah Cooperative Extension Service, and finally moved to Ohio in 1980 as an extension leader and assistant professor. While an assistant professor, he was instrumental in creating curriculum and courses for what is now our leadership department. He became the director of Ohio State Extension on July 1, 1992.



Photo Credit: CFAES Photo Library

Ohio State Extension is an organization that develops programming to promote agriculture and natural resources, family and consumer sciences and youth and community development. As director, Smith is responsible for budget development and management, legislative contacts, policy development and coordination with other agencies. "In any given week, he is talking with legislatures, extension agents, business representatives and community members about extension," said Cheryl Buck, executive assistant to the director. "He eats, lives and breathes extension."

Extension from the Eyes of Smith

Smith's commitment to extension has enabled him to spark positive change within the program and its people. One story in particular sticks out in Smith's mind. He remembers attending an extension meeting in Darke County that left a grown man in tears. This man's father had passed away in a farming accident. He didn't know if his family would be able to sustain the family business. However, thanks to extension, he was able to keep the family farm. "This was one of many stories I have heard throughout the years that reinforces the positive impact of OSU Extension," said Smith.



Smith has also been the catalyst for many extension improvements. He enabled extension agents to become more specialized in their respective areas. Each educator now spends 25 percent of his or her time learning and sharing information about an area they are passionate about. These field specialists then travel the state to provide their expertise where it is most needed.

The director's office has also been faced with adversity and resilience. During his time as director, the biggest challenge Smith faced was budget cuts. "When the crash hit in 2008, the government cut our funding by 4.5 percent," said Smith. Budget cuts have affected extension since 2001, and it hasn't been until 2014 that extension has seen an increase in funding from the government. "Despite the recent economic challenges, I foresee a positive future for OSU Extension," said Smith.

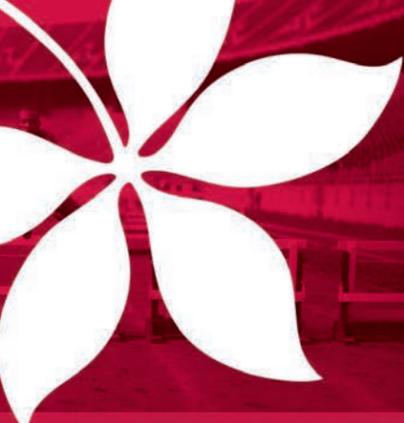
Love for Cowboy Boots and People

During his time as director, Smith has seen a lot of change, but two things have remained constant - his daily usage of cowboy boots and his love for the people around him. "I work with people who are passionate about the subject matter, and that encourages me to do better." While Smith may be modest about those who influence him, his co-workers did not hesitate to share ways in which he has impacted them. Buck has worked with Smith since 2008, and she has seen his personality and humor in many different facets. Buck described Smith as being approachable. "He has an open-door policy and personally responds to all of his emails," said Buck. Anyone he has met knows he is adept at remembering names and faces.

Craig Berning, a second-year student studying agribusiness and applied economics began working for the director's office last October. Berning was a little intimidated at first, but Smith's open-door policy and friendly attitude helped Berning feel right at home. "I enjoy coming into work because I am able to carry on conversations with everyone in the office, including important people like Dr. Smith."

The Future – Family, Music and Extension

Smith said he could not have served in his capacity without the support of his family. He is married and the proud father of eight children. Although a lot of his children live out west, extension and music typically bring them back together. "Their entire family loves to sing," said Buck. Smith and his wife actually sang at a wedding reception held at the Ohio 4-H Center. In addition to music, Smith loves black cherry ice cream and his farm dog, Bennie. Smith plans to stay involved with extension and the university after retirement. He is excited to see his grandchildren be a part of their local 4-H club. He also wishes to be a resource to Ohio State on a part-time basis by serving as a mentor for master's and doctoral students. "Although I am retiring, I just can't say no," said Smith. ■



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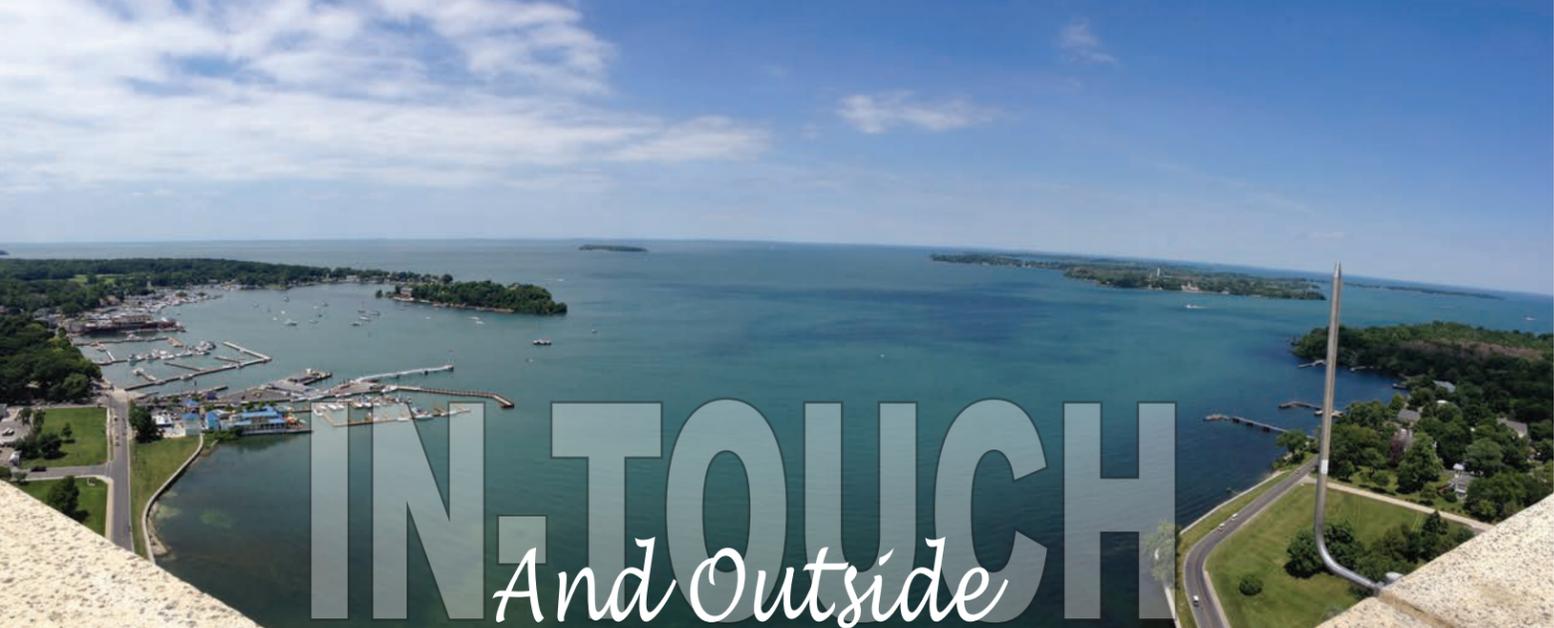


Photo taken at top of Perry's monument. Bottom right and left: South Bass Island. Left top: Gibraltar Island (Stone Lab.) Right: Middle Bass

Students at Stone Lab and at The Wetlands change learning

By: Jamie Boudreaux

Crunching through week-old snow, Kay Stefanik, a postdoctoral researcher at The Ohio State University's Wilma H. Schiermeier Olentangy River Wetland Research Park, shivers quietly as the biting wind nips at her back. She pauses, exhaling deeply, creating a breathy cloud in her path. She walks, laughing as she describes the events of that first day.

"I was kind of amazed that this was in the middle of Columbus," said Stefanik. "A lot of people just don't know this is here. A lot of cities have nothing like this."

Across Ohio State's campus, students are altering how education occurs. Ohio State's Wetland Research Park, as well as Stone Lab on Gibraltar Island, serve as hands-on resources for students to change the way they learn. Through these programs, students have developed a love for the environment while learning more about Ohio State's facilities.

The Wetlands

Located off Dodridge Road on the far north side of campus, a walking path follows along the Olentangy River. Though few passersby notice the web of boardwalks and research equipment, the sudden rush of water in the quiet oasis piques one's curiosity as the path makes its way up to the research building.

The facilities are home to a 52-acre urban research program where undergraduates work to measure and monitor water levels. Postdoctoral researchers, such as Stefanik, measure various emissions as well as a variety of other environmental factors.

"I am appreciative of the fact that the research building is right here," said Stefanik, as she points to the lab off in the distance. "The mission of your research changes because you are right where you can experience your education every day."

The program lends itself to expand education through providing opportunities for people of all ages. "We host tours for various groups throughout the year," said Stefanik. "The tours range from young students coming out to visit as well as professionals in the research fields. This past summer, we hosted a group of middle school girls who were interested in the STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) fields."

These young middle school students learned about aquatic systems on their trip to the wetlands, and used these systems as a means of education.

"This is a unique place that is situated in the middle of the city that provides so many ecosystem services including just aesthetic beauty and a place to get away from the city," said Stefanik. "It is important for people to come and enjoy this addition to research and learning."

Stone Lab

Students scramble off a boat in anticipation as their first day on campus starts. Lake Erie is home to Ohio State's Stone Lab, located on Gibraltar Island. The six-acre island is where researchers and students learn through performing various analysis based learning objectives, which include classroom education and specimen collection around the island.

Established in 1895, Stone Lab was to serve as a freshwater field station for biological studies. Today the lab is home to more than 12 agencies and 65 researchers.

"We turn the water off, and shut down the electricity in the winter months," said Christopher Winslow, Ph.D. Stone Lab's associate director. "We mainly function from later winter or early spring through late fall."

The island houses 21 different laboratory rooms for students to

We want them to bring an old pair of ratty gym shoes and clothes that they don't mind getting dirty in.
- Christopher Winslow

study in, a dining hall, as well as Stone Cottage and Gibraltar House. "We house researchers, seasonal staff and students on the campus that have access to the equipment on site," said Winslow.

Throughout the summer the lab offers weeklong courses for upper-level high school students and other various courses for undergraduate college students. During this time, students live and learn in the same location.

"Before students come, we tell them to leave the waders and rain boots at home. We want them to bring an old pair of ratty gym shoes and clothes that they don't mind getting dirty in," said Winslow. "At the beginning of the week, you can see them look at specimens and adventure as 'eww,' but come the end of their stay, they voluntarily choose to go walk through the streams waist deep in water with their friends so they can learn new things before they have to leave."

Winslow, a researcher turned instructor and now associate director of the program said his first experience was clouded by the chaos of his doctoral research, but after returning he finally smelled the roses. "The first thing I noticed after my research concluded was the bugs," said Winslow. "They were everywhere. You're on Lake Erie, it's the summer months and you are on an island in the middle of the lake, so of course there are going to be bugs."

For students like Victoria Simmons and Blair Perry, seniors in zoology at Ohio State, the bugs served as a

learning opportunity.

"I noticed the bugs at first, but without realizing it, they became part of quite a few students' research," said Simmons. "I personally didn't work with the insects on the island, but the students that did learned a great amount from having such a wide variety of specimens to collect."

Throughout a typical week, students work with cutting-edge research equipment that include remotely operated vehicles (ROV) and snorkeling equipment that they can delve further into their educational experiences.

"I spent part of my day collecting specimen for my study," said Simmons. "The last bit of my afternoons was spent in the lab trying to determine origin and lifespan for those specimens."

"Typically, students spend about 20 percent of their time in a lecture to gain a foundation on what they will be learning," said Winslow. "The rest of the time is spent on experiential learning."

"I worked with snakes during my time at Stone Lab," said Perry. "When I first started, I didn't know the first thing about snakes, but I did know that Stone Lab was a great experience. By the end of my first week on site, I was able to identify and recognize significantly more snakes than I did in the first day."

According to Winslow, the undergraduate research comes to a conclusion during the last few days of a students' stays at Stone Lab.

"Undergraduate students give a final presentation,"

said Winslow. "That is when students present all that they have learned and their classmates know and see the research their peers have done. It creates a sense of community, because to some extent everyone had a part in the particular project that was completed."

"Stone Lab is an opportunity for them [students] to learn what is important," said Winslow. "Stone Lab can be that thing that tells them 'Yes, this is what I want to do!'"

Stone Lab and The Wilma H. Schiermeier Olentangy River Wetland Research Park offer a variety of hands-on experiences that allow students to stay in touch and learn while getting outside the classroom.

"That external learning is some of the most important education students will gain," said Winslow. "You cannot exchange that community for anything." ■

Interested in Research?

Students interested in researching with The Wilma H. Schiermeier Olentangy River Wetland Research Park are welcome to stop by the research building located at 352 West Dodridge St., Columbus, Ohio 43210 or visit the website at <http://senr.osu.edu/research/Schiermeier-olentangy-river-wetland-research-park>.

Winslow encourages those interested in Stone Lab to stop by their satellite location on Ohio State's main campus at 1314 Kinnear Road, Area 100, Columbus, Ohio or visit their website at <http://stone-lab.osu.edu/about/>.



Photo courtesy of Victoria Simmons. From left to right: Brianna Zellner, Victoria Simons, Laura Smith, and Karen Ortega prepare a sample for testing

A Natural DISASTER

A look at the OARDC and Secrest Arboretum five years after a devastating tornado swept through the campus.

By: Diane Gress

“Well Jim, the arboretum is gone.”

For Jim Chatfield, an extension specialist in landscape horticulture with The Ohio State University Extension, that was an abrupt first indication that something was wrong back home in Ohio. At the time Chatfield was in Illinois for a speaking engagement, where cloudless blue skies gave no hint as to what had occurred back home in Wooster.

At first, Chatfield chuckled and quipped, “What, did they sell it or something?” But his jovial attitude quickly lessened as Ken Cochran, then-director of the Secrest Arboretum, informed him that a devastating tornado had swept through the Ohio Agricultural Research and Development Center (OARDC) and Secrest Arboretum.

When Chatfield heard the news he immediately caught a plane back to Ohio. Upon his return, the center and arboretum were in shambles. Fallen trees covered the roads, blocking emergency vehicles from getting to their destinations. Broken glass and bricks covered the ground, making walking and driving hazardous. The roofs of buildings hung like sheets over the brick walls. Several vehicles were flipped on their sides after having been carried hundreds of feet by 150 mph winds.

“The tornado went right through the heart of the campus,” said Steve Slack, associate vice president for Agricultural Administration and director of OARDC. The tornado that hit the center on the evening of September 16, 2010 caused millions of dollars in damage to buildings and grounds, as well as destroying years of research. In less than five minutes, the center and arboretum lost over 1,500 trees.

According to Slack, there was very little warning that a tornado was imminent. At the time, he was out of the state giving a seminar and was notified that a tornado had hit OARDC about a half an hour after the incident occurred. Fortunately there were few people on campus at the time, or the losses may have been much more substantial.

The Clean-Up

Public safety and disaster relief crews were quickly brought in to secure the area. Over the course of the next few days and weeks, a huge cleanup effort was started to rid the grounds of the glass and debris that the tornado left in its wake.

After the preliminary cleanup finished, structural engineers evaluated buildings for damage. Flying debris damaged most of the roofs on the campus, and many had to be replaced. The

biggest structural loss was the campus’s agricultural engineering building, which was completely leveled by the tornado.

For the center, the next few weeks consisted of meetings with the insurance company, representatives from central administration and the board of trustees to fill them in on the damage and what steps were being taken to repair and recover. The insurance company estimated that it would be two years before they could come to an agreement on the total cost the tornado had caused.

Even though that length of time was somewhat surprising to Slack, it ended up being right on target. Two years after the tornado ripped through OARDC, the assessment had been completed and the cost was estimated at roughly \$30 million, including facilities and research that had been destroyed.

The damage that was done to the Secrest Arboretum was some of the most extensive. Chatfield, along with Cochran, did a full inventory of the trees lost in the tornado. After evaluating the monetary losses from the trees, it was used as the insurance policy’s \$1 million deductible.

Along with trees that were lost because of the tornado, much of the research was lost as well.

“We lost a lot of plants, we lost DNA libraries, which are the genetic libraries, and because power was lost, we lost a lot of data. So this really set research projects, particularly by our plant scientists, back from anywhere from a few months to several years,” said Slack.

The research loss ranged anywhere from loss of tomato variety genetics to some of OARDC’s research with the James Cancer Hospital in Columbus. A number of ongoing projects were damaged as well, including research that involved bio products, biofuels, food, food production and climate change.

Well Jim, the
arboretum is gone.
- Ken Cochran



Photo of the Williams Hall greenhouse complex after the tornado came through. A dumpster carried by the wind sits in the middle of the wreckage.

The Recovery

At the time before the tornado hit, the research portfolio shared between the Wooster and Columbus campuses totaled around 120 million samples. Many of the researchers were concerned that the portfolio would be greatly impacted because of the tornado. “Interestingly five years later our research portfolio is north of 165 million samples, so we not only recovered but have been able to prosper,” said Slack.

The bounce back of the research portfolio is just a small portion of the recovery that has occurred since the tornado. In the aftermath, local and national organizations came together to help restore the arboretum.

“People just came out of the woodwork to help plant, restore and clean up,” said Joe Cochran, interim director of the Secrest Arboretum. “We started getting calls from nurseries from Oregon to Maine and they just asked us,

‘What do you want? Make us a list,’ and they donated hundreds of thousands of dollars worth of plants; it just started showing up on semis. The community really came together and supported the effort.” Now, five years later, over 2,000 trees and 5,000 shrubs have been replanted at OARDC and Secrest Arboretum.

The tornado also created an opportunity for future learning for youth. Pathways created when fallen trees were hauled out of the arboretum were turned into paved walking paths. Washed out culverts from a creek were repurposed into a 35-foot in-ground slide, one of many additions to a new children’s area in the arboretum. The changes were made in an effort to encourage kids to get involved in nature.

A large area of trees destroyed by the tornado has also been repurposed into a research area to study a tornado’s effects on the environment.

The rebuilding that occurred

after that point was a lengthy process. So much so that just months ago the center finished dedicating the completion of the new greenhouse complex and agricultural engineering building; both of which were severely damaged due to the tornado.

“We’re essentially, I think, at steps of moving forward from the tornado,” said Slack. “If you look at the recovery period it was just a little over four years.”

Slack, Cochran and Chatfield all mentioned time and time again how the work done over the past five years restoring OARDC has been a team effort.

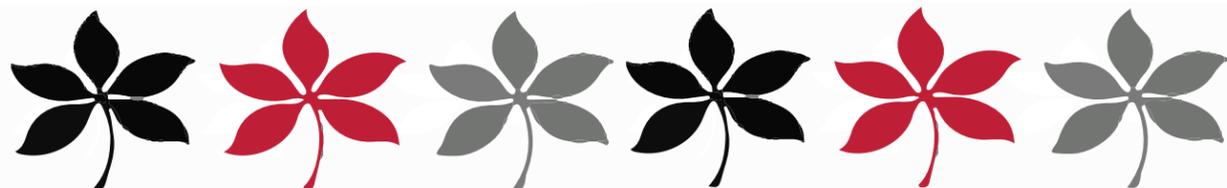
“I think at the end of the day what I was really struck with was, as dramatic an impact as the tornado had on people, there was tremendous resilience,” said Slack. “People once they know what has happened and what needs to happen, they come together and work towards that end.”

“I think the one thing that we repeated over and over again was then-President of Ohio State Gordon Gee’s mantra of ‘One University’,” said Slack. “It certainly came through because we could not have done the things we did without the support of the university, so it really was a team effort.”

At the end of the interview, Chatfield explained that though the tornado was a devastating event emotionally, financially and environmentally, it was also a natural event. And nature has a way of working itself out, which is apparent when looking at OARDC and Secrest Arboretum today. ■

GEE'S GREEN GOALS GO ON

Sustainability at Ohio State goes beyond the bowtie



By: Alexandria Misch

Scarlet and gray. Two colors that The Ohio State University students, faculty, alumni and fans across the country solemnly swear by. The combination instills such a deep loyalty to the university that even halfway across the world an “O-H” will not go unanswered by an echoing “I-O.” But behind the scenes, the Buckeyes are trying to add a third color to their palette: green.

Priding itself on being a leader not only in athletics, but also academics and research, Ohio State is known to be on the cutting edge of advancement and “green” or sustainability initiatives are no exception. While corporations are under criticism for using these terms as eye-catching buzzwords, Ohio State has been actively coining these concepts as its own priority. Sustainable projects and audits are underway throughout campus and range from reducing waste on game days to urban gardens on top of the roofs of buildings and offices.

A short stroll around campus proves that the university is undergoing a change that goes beyond trying to make headlines. Taking the Campus Area Bus System (CABS) around campus and there is a good chance you have caught a ride on one of the new diesel-electric powered hybrid buses. Get off near the south oval and you are walking over a geothermal system consisting of 411 wells that are heating and cooling residence halls on campus. Grab a bite to eat at the student union and you will notice the food you are eating is promised to be made up of at least 30 percent local ingredients and served to in tree-free and compostable packaging that you can dispose of right next to one of the many all-in-one recycling bins throughout campus. Walk into any of the four Leadership in Environmental Design (LEED) certified buildings on campus and you can see how Ohio State is striving to lower its carbon footprint through design.

But as you go about your day on campus, you might find yourself wondering who is leaving their green prints all over the second largest university in the United States. With enrollment exceeding 64,000 students and an employee headcount of roughly 44,434 persons, sustainability as a priority may seem like a stretch. So how exactly can Ohio State implement an overarching concept into all of these moving parts to work toward one goal?

“Because sustainability doesn’t belong to anyone,” said Kate

Bartter, director of the Office of Energy and Environment (OEE) at Ohio State. Located on the third floor in Smith Hall, the OEE office is filled with an abundant amount of natural light and green accents, conveying its mission through aesthetics. It focuses primarily on energy as it relates to environmental issues, but Bartter said sustainability goes beyond the work of her office.

“It takes a lot of different skill sets for solutions to climate change,” she said. There is no formula for slowing the effects of human-caused climate change; rather it’s a way of thinking about things. This way of thinking across different disciplines, championed by Ohio State’s former president, E. Gordon Gee, spearheaded dramatic sustainability initiatives that not only showed Ohio State’s individual commitment to cleaning up its environmental impact, but also its duty as a global citizen.

It takes a lot of different skill sets for solutions to climate change.
- Kate Bartter

GREEN ROOTS

In 2008, Gordon Gee signed the American College and University Presidents Climate Commitment (ACUPCC), an effort to combat climate change by partnering with

campuses across the United States to eliminate net greenhouse gas emissions and educate students through sustainability leadership. To support his signature, the university formed The President and Provost’s Council on Sustainability (PPCS) to oversee goals of the ACUPCC. The committee, chaired by Bartter, draws from a wide variety of campus leaders, from the Office of Academic Affairs to the director of athletics.

A significant improvement to the campus’ infrastructure came in 2013 when the university announced its purchase of 50 megawatts of wind energy capacity from the Blue Creek Wind Farm, located in Van Wert, Ohio. This contract, developed under the company Iberdrola Renewables, accelerates Ohio State’s commitment to carbon neutrality.

“This is a pretty significant improvement in general efficiency,” said Brett Pasinella, program manager at ACUPCC, noting Ohio State’s leadership in its significant cut of roughly 20,000 tons of carbon emissions. Pasinella monitors college and university progress on the ACUPCC from his office in Boston, but Columbus is clearly on his radar. He pointed out Ohio State’s detailed climate action plan’s influence on other campuses across the country due to the Zero Waste program at Ohio Stadium.

“It’s an area other campuses have struggled with,” he said.

EDUCATION FOR THE FUTURE

“This area is changing so fast,” said Bartter, but Ohio State is still taking steps toward training its students for the future of it. A formal curriculum now supports the university’s “real world” actions. The new environment, economy, development and sustainability major (EEDS) is a multi-disciplinary program with specializations in business, environmental economics, policy analysis, and both community and international development. The School of Environment and Natural Resources (SENR) and the Department of Agricultural, Environmental and Development Economics (AEDE) in the College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences (CFAES) collaborated to design coursework to provide students with the foundation to launch a career in sustainability.

Neil Drobny, EEDS program director, teaches the Fisher College of Business’ sustainability and businesses cluster. Throughout two semesters, the cluster series gives students the opportunity to gain real-world experience through working with companies like Alcoa, Dow Chemical and Momentive Performance Materials on sustainability initiatives.

Drobny discussed the success of former EEDS students, now graduated and forging their own career paths, some even creating their own job titles. “The experience students are getting is top notch,” he said about the complex, project-based class series. He explained that some students even extend their academic career to complete the major after transferring into it.

Behind Drobny sits the two computer screens he uses to scan the Internet, partake in sustainability webinars, skim LinkedIn articles and keep an eye out for opportunities



Gordon E. Gee, former Ohio State president, always thinking “forward.” Photo by Alexandria Misch

for students in this undefined, emerging field. Equipping students with the tools to find internships and jobs is a major focus of Drobny’s work to make EEDS even more of a resource outside of the standard academic curriculum.

“Jobs won’t always have the word ‘sustainability’ in them,” he explained about his process of sorting through the “flood” of information he consumes on students’ behalf, “but sustainability is a part of every job.”

Organizations might not understand the need for an EEDS-related position until students create solutions for them with a sustainability

template. “This is a catapult for their career,” he said of the opportunity for graduates to quickly move up the company ladder with niche expertise.

GROWING SUPPORT

Overall, green projects continue to grow on campus with Gee’s successor, Dr. Michael Drake. In Drake’s first presidential address to the university, he noted his intent of strengthening current programs for reasons in addition to environmental conservation. “There is still much to discuss, but this focus on sustainability has the potential to generate significant funding that could

increase access to an affordable education for students and provide strong, meaningful support for faculty research,” he said in his speech on October 30, 2014. Drobny is confident the EEDS program will support the university’s endeavors while differentiating its students in the work force by equipping them with the mindset to solve sustainability issues for generations to come.

“Sustainability isn’t complex. It’s common sense,” said Drobny as he headed out the door to meet with one of the many Ohio State students starting to impact the world of sustainability. ■



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July 18	Wilmington
July 24	Hilliard
July 26	Mt. Vernon
July 28	Owensville
July 30	Hamilton
July 31- August 1	Fort Recovery
August 5	Eaton
August 8	Wapakoneta
August 10	Urbana
August 14	Sandusky
August 15	Napoleon
August 16	Zanesville
August 21-23	Bowling Green (NTPC)
August 24	Lima
August 25-26	Greenville
August 28	Wellington
September 4	Wauseon
September 5	Canfield
September 5	Canton
September 6	Marietta
September 14	Old Washington
September 19	Urbana (Enderle Pull-Off)

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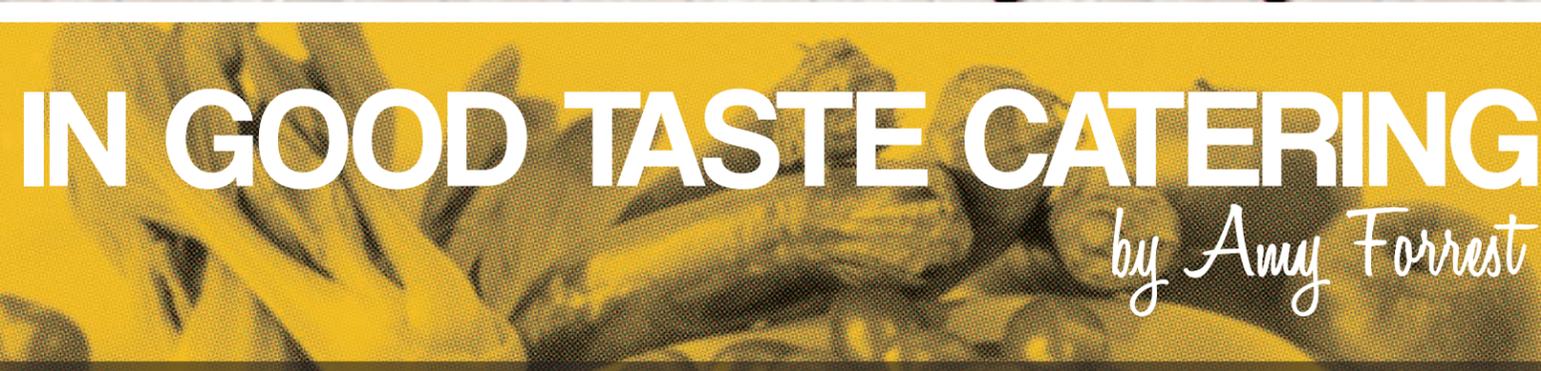


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Urban gardens are playing a part in spreading the message of the importance of agriculture and impacting local communities for the better.

Story By: Tyler Butler

The sight of a delicate, yet durable, cedar split-rail fence replaces the dull rows of unwelcoming chain-link barriers. Vibrant-seasonal blooms line mulched walkways that encase a beautiful network of sprouting produce, succeeding bricks and mortar. Elder oak and walnut trees tower over the surrounding residents, casting a playful shadow as their leaves dance in the summer breeze. The laughter of children as they discover for the first time, where their food comes from, breaking the silence.

Agriculturalists around the world would see this as some sort of utopia. However, to many, this idea is not as farfetched as some have been led to believe.

Urban agricultural centers, such as youth, community or educational gardens, have seen a dramatic increase in support in the past few years and have turned up in the nation's most densely populated areas. The gardeners behind these urban agricultural centers have taken it upon themselves to introduce the importance of agriculture to areas that may not have this opportunity otherwise. Columbus, Ohio provides a home for nearly 250 of these urban gardens and now houses the most community gardens per capita of any city in America.

"It only takes one seed to start a garden," said

Peggy Murphy, a program assistant for the Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP) at The Ohio State University and development coordinator for the Highland Youth Garden in Hilltop, Columbus.

She recalled reading that phrase in an encouraging note that she received from a friend who shares an interest in agriculture. "Most children just do not know about fruits and vegetables. My goal, and many like myself, is to make sure that changes," Murphy said.

Taking its place just a stone's throw away from Highland Elementary School, the Highland Youth Garden must seem like acres of rolling-green fields to the community, though it takes up a mere two city lots. Their mission "Is to enhance the Hilltop

through growing food and educating children and neighbors on the importance of agriculture."

Serving as many as 200 children every week in the spring, summer and fall, the garden works with local schools to create a program that focuses on natural sciences with lessons of agriculture and real-world applications.

"Children need a chance to see the science," Murphy said "If they see what is happening and are able to touch it and hold it, then that may just be what they need to understand." With a slight grin, she then explained the difficulties of keeping teachers on board with their program. As the garden tends to get a little muddy, so will young children.

Growing Green and the Franklin Park Conservatory

When the Highland Youth Garden is in need of support and resources beyond what their steering committee can provide, programs such as the Growing to Green initiative sponsored by the Franklin Park Conservatory, along with numerous other organizations and corporations, step in to provide community gardens with free resources.

Bill Dawson, the Growing to Green Program coordinator

who is known for showing up at local gardens on the back of his Harley Davidson, said, "We support these local ventures in countless ways. Heck, we'll do everything short of pulling your weeds for you."

Franklin Park Conservatory and Botanical Gardens is the largest and best known of the urban agricultural centers located in Columbus. The conservatory is home to both indoor and outdoor displays, which include exotic plants, botanical gardens, featured artwork and plenty of open space. In line with the Ohio Department of Education Academic Content Standards, opportunities to discover at the garden have been offered to all ages. Classes and workshops in food, art, science and nature have been delivered throughout the year with hands-on

Ohio State is an agricultural college, I'm hoping that in some way we are encouraging future students from an early age.
- Bill Dawson



said Dawson. "This food goes to multiple food banks and pantries, and that's just what's recorded. Many of these gardens freely offer their produce to neighbors and volunteers."

The conservatory also helps direct Master Gardener volunteers, trained by Ohio State Extension, to the community gardens sprinkled around the city in order to help with educational programs and activities. These volunteers use their passion for the subject of agriculture to further the goal of these gardens. "Ohio State is an agricultural college, I'm hoping that in some way we are encouraging future students from an early age," Dawson said.

The Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program

Ohio State Extension's EFNEP aligns with land-grant universities and Extension services and has been enacted in all 50 states. The program strives to encourage a change in behavior as it relates to nutritionally sound diets and family well-being. Their focus not only includes elementary-age children by offering after school programs, classroom sessions, in-garden workshops and 4-H opportunities, but also provides adults with the power to better make responsible dietary choices in low-income situations. "Some local schools have even started nutrition nights where parents are taught lessons in nutrition and led

to healthier dining options," Murphy said.

The Local Foods Signature Program

No stranger understanding that most of the urban community is without the resources necessary for an appreciation of agriculture. Recently, the Extension services have introduced a new program that supports the well-being of communities by promoting and educating individuals on their local food systems.

Heather Neikirk, a co-leader of the Local Foods Signature Program for Ohio State Extension, said, "No matter the community, there is a food system. We can help the local schools discover these urban gardens and create a relationship between them and cafeterias."

Increased support in a community could allow these urban agricultural centers to spread their roots and branch out in Columbus neighborhoods. Ohio State Extension's Local Foods programs place information concerning health promotion, opportunities for education, economically based food systems and agricultural policy in the hands of the public.

Making it a point to provide new information as studies are being conducted around the nation, urban gardens can utilize this information to the best of their ability. "One in six people are food insecure," Neikirk said "These

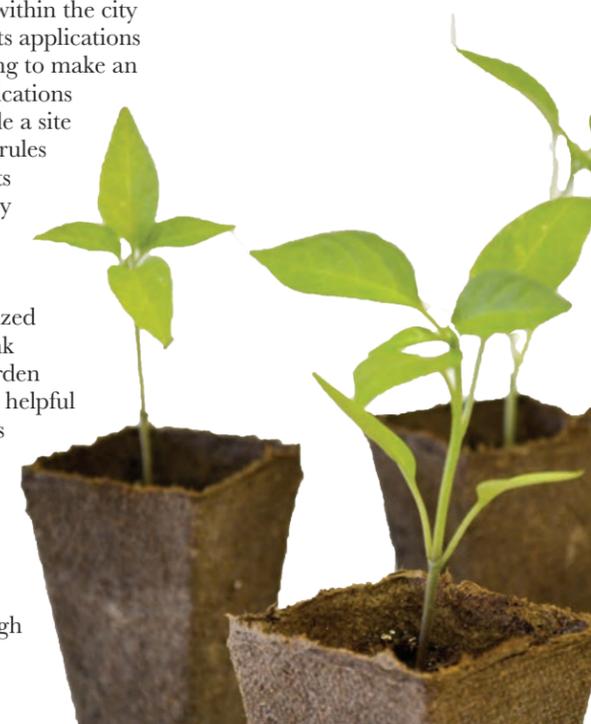
gardens can help us minimize this striking statistic." The ultimate goal of the Local Foods Program is to arm the leaders in these urban gardens with resources to improve food access and food security and to stress sustainability.

Land Bank Community Garden Program

Beyond the university, the city of Columbus sponsors the Land Bank Community Garden Program. Seeking individuals or community groups, the Land Redevelopment Office promotes the importance of urban agriculture and projects that will benefit surrounding neighborhoods. The program makes available a list of all vacant properties, void of an intact structure within the city limits and accepts applications from those hoping to make an impact. All applications submitted include a site plan, gardening rules and requirements and a community garden liability waiver and indemnification. Gardens recognized by the Land Bank Community Garden Program receive helpful resources such as access to a tool lending library and a water containment system provided at no cost to applicants through Rebuilding

Together Central Ohio and funded through the city council and the mayor's office. As well as the eligibility for grants purposed for community improvement and addressing disadvantaged children.

Communities benefit from these urban agricultural centers. Whether your goal is to feed a local community, prepare students in the art of natural sciences or just to beautify your neighborhood, these programs deliver an array of services. Ohio State and countless organizations across the nation are working to make sure that these gardens are long-lived and strengthened by continuous support. ■



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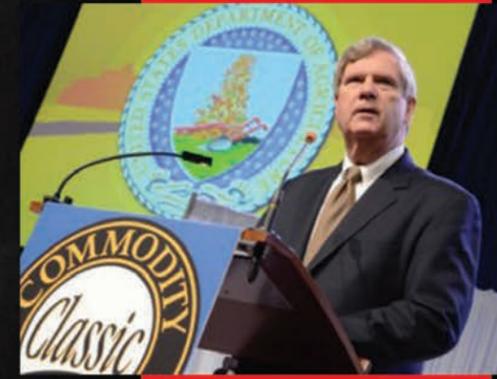
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iAGRI

By: Katy Shook

Food insecurity: Think about what those two words mean. Food insecurity is a situation where people find themselves without consistent access to affordable and healthy food. There are many countries around the world that struggle with food security, and the East African nation of Tanzania is one of them. Home to beautiful Mount Kilimanjaro and the plains of the Serengeti, Tanzania is a poverty-stricken nation. This is one of the main reasons why the country is food-insecure. Malnutrition is commonplace and stunted growth in children is widespread. Food availability to the masses has not yet been reliably achieved, especially in rural areas.

iAGRI program reaches out to Tanzania

The innovative Agricultural Research Initiative, or iAGRI, is a program that has been developed to assist, improve and support the agricultural production process for the future of Tanzania at Sokoine University of Agriculture. Tanzania's Sokoine University, which was founded in 1965, has a clear vision "to become a centre of excellence in agriculture and allied sciences."

The mission statement of iAGRI is "to prepare the next generation of agricultural leadership and strengthen and integrate the core agricultural institutions of extension, research and education in Tanzania."

The Ohio State University has been working for more than a decade with Tanzania in order to help their country become food secure. Because of the years of work and investment in the country, in 2011, Ohio State was awarded a sizeable federal grant, six years and \$25.5 million dollars, funded through the US Agency for International Development (USAID). iAGRI's goal is to educate 135 Tanzanian students through master's and doctoral degrees in agricultural disciplines so they can bring what they have learned here in the United States back to Tanzania.

Leaders with iAGRI

Ohio State is the prime contractor and lead university of the grant, said iAGRI Administrative Director Mark Erbaugh, Ph.D. Partner universities have also been brought in, including Michigan State University, the University of Florida, Virginia Tech, Iowa State and Tuskegee University to also participate.

Erbaugh, director of international programs in agriculture in the College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences (CFAES) at Ohio State, said, "It is better for building their capacity if students are trained at a variety of universities, which is why we brought these other universities in as partners." The

grant may be for a few short years, but the overall goal is to educate and build for the future.

David Kraybill, Ph.D. is the project director of iAGRI. A teacher and researcher, Kraybill has worked extensively in Africa and lives full time in Tanzania in order to facilitate the grant.

While the program administrators are committed to helping Tanzania achieve food security, the students who are accepted into the program are equally involved.

The selection process for students who qualify for this program is rigorous. They must achieve a certain score on the Graduate Record Exam (GRE) and pass the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL exam). The GRE helps administrators compare applicants on equal footing so they can decide which candidates are most qualified. The TOEFL exam measures each student's proficiency with the English language.

Students who are awarded the opportunity to study in the iAGRI program will go back to Sokoine University to help educate others and apply what they have learned when they return to Tanzania.

Gary Straquadine, Ph.D., professor and department chair for the Department of Agricultural Communication, Education and Leadership said of iAGRI, "I believe it is impacting by opening closed minds and building bridges for tomorrow." While he has traveled to Tanzania only once, Straquadine described the Tanzanian people as "wonderful, kind and without prejudice towards our teaching and learning with them."



Boniface Massawe is a doctoral student specializing in soil science, He is pictured above in his lab. Photo courtesy of Beau Ingle.

Tanzanian students on iAGRI

Gosbert Shausi, who is a doctoral student in agricultural and extension education, looks forward to returning

production from their land. The four basic fundamentals of extension are: "knowledge and skills, technical advice and information, farmers' organization, and motivation and self-confidence."

To prepare the next generation of agricultural leadership and strengthen and integrate the core agricultural institutions of extension, research and education in Tanzania. - Mission of iAGRI

home to his faculty position at Sokoine University. He said, "I will bring back the skills I am learning here and will continue research on how I can improve the extension services in Tanzania."

In Tanzania, the food supply comes from local production. Extension services teach food producers by reaching out to them and sharing what they have learned at the university and beyond. In essence, it helps to educate the producers on how to solve problems and achieve greater

Boniface Massawe, another iAGRI student, is working toward his soil science doctorate. His expertise is land use planning and soil science. Boniface wanted to study abroad where technology is more advanced. He will return to Tanzania as a researcher and academician at Sokoine. He believes the iAGRI program will have an impact in Tanzania, even though there are "technology and equipment differences." He believes that the collaborations between the U.S. and Tanzanian institutes will help

in technological exchange, with a focus on institutional capacity building.

Erbaugh put the iAGRI mission into perspective: "It's the fundamentals of the land grant university's mission: teaching, research and outreach all combined under one house in the university." It is all about "moving forward in terms of agricultural development."

Earbaugh said, "If we can promote agricultural development in a country like Tanzania where 80 percent of the labor force is engaged in small-holder agriculture. If we can get agriculture moving forward, then that will have repercussions across the country. There will be economic growth, and then there will be development." Individual landowners and major corporations can all learn how to produce food more efficiently.

Sustainability as a result of this project is what Erbaugh described as the ultimate goal. "If our project has resulted in stronger institutions that can stand on their own, then we have done our job."

People come and go, projects begin and end, but it is the shared information and learning that can help nations become food secure. iAGRI is a brilliant example of what the U.S. government does right. This program invests in information sharing that can help another country feed its people. Straquadine said, "Civilization struggles forward and addresses the needs of all, with thoughtful compassion, love and service." Ohio State's iAGRI is helping to facilitate this goal. The grant will end in 2016, but the groundwork has been laid for the future. The students will return home and will help Tanzania achieve its goal of food security. ■

OPENING NEW BARN DOORS

By: Olivia Houts

For many students in the College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences at The Ohio State University, being able to see the barns and silos of the Waterman farm just west of campus is comforting. Seeing cows out on green pasture is enough to make a person stop, smile and appreciate the beauty of such a rural landscape in the midst of the urban busyness of Columbus, Ohio. For those who came from a farm, it's almost like being back home for a brief moment.

Soon, the university will see change not only the Waterman farm, but to many of the animal facilities that Ohio State uses for teaching, research and outreach. Ohio State has animal facilities on its Columbus campus, at the Agricultural Technical Institute (ATI) in Wooster and at the Ohio Agricultural Research and Development Center (OARDC), also in Wooster.

The Planning Process

Last year, an Animal Facilities Re-envisioning Committee was appointed. The committee was comprised of a large number of faculty from all Ohio State campuses who teach in these facilities, people who care for the animals and administrators responsible for making decisions about these facilities.

"The goal of the committee was to examine what facilities we did have, where they were located, whether they were still serving a need for the three missions of the college which are research, teaching and outreach and to make a recommendation as to how we would go forward in the future," said David Benfield, Ph.D., OARDC associate director and committee chair.

Why Now?

Many of the facilities that currently house animals on Ohio State's campuses are aging. Some were constructed as long ago as the 1950s. While they have served their purpose for a long time, they are past their projected lifespan. The committee agreed that having newer, more modern facilities is critical for researching issues such as diet, welfare and health of the animals.

"Modern facilities provide us with the best physical environment to do our learning, scholarship and teaching. We need to upgrade so that we are doing very contemporary things with respect to animal handling, animal use, animal care, those sorts of things," said Ron Hendrick, Ph.D., senior associate dean of the College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences (CFAES).

In addition, Ohio State has duplicate facilities for several animal species. Having just one facility per species, in some cases, will help with the cost of maintaining that facility and be more sustainable in the long term.

The Recommendations

The Animal Facilities Re-envisioning Committee recognized the importance of having animals located on the Columbus campus. An animal agriculture presence will remain on the central campus to allow students to have contact with animals in their courses.

One recommendation the committee made is to make the current Waterman farm a site for a multi-species facility which would have several different species of animals at any one time.

"The idea of a multi-species facility is you bring in just enough animals as you'd need to do the teaching aspect to allow students to have contact with the animals, be able to see the life cycle of the animal so to speak, and learn the welfare techniques to go along with animal-rearing," said Benfield.

The dairy herd currently located at the Waterman farm would merge with the dairy herds at ATI and OARDC, consolidating to make one larger dairy unit versus three small ones. A similar process would occur with the swine and both new swine and dairy units would be located near Wooster. There is more landmass in Wooster to accommodate these larger and more modern facilities.

The Don Scott location in Columbus would become a primarily beef facility. The horses currently located at Don Scott would be relocated to the multi-species facility, and the swine would be moved to the new swine unit in Wooster. Forage management and heifer development of beef cattle would be the focus at Don Scott.

The sheep flocks at OARDC and ATI would be combined. Poultry research would remain at OARDC.

The implementation process may start to happen more quickly than originally thought. Changes will be made on a species-by-species, location-by-location basis, in order to take better advantage of the existing facilities that are still in good shape. The multi-species facility in Columbus will be made a top priority, with the dairy and swine units in Wooster following.

Benefits to All

The ultimate objective of the college in appointing a committee to review the need for updated or new facilities lies in the benefit to the students, faculty, staff and stakeholders of Ohio State. New facilities that mirror what the industries' modern facilities look like allow for the highest quality research and best possible learning environment for students. Additionally, having new facilities is key in attracting prospective students, as well as faculty, and keeping them at Ohio State.

"We are at a point where we need to update our facilities so we can provide relevant experiences for our students, conduct sound science to continuously pursue improved efficiencies in food animal production, develop advancements to support both animal and human health and well-being and provide benefits to our stakeholders, our communities and our environment," said Henry Zerby, Ph.D., the chair of the department of animal sciences.

In the end, it's the students that matter. In addition to preparing them to be successful in their career field and providing them with the necessary environment in which they can learn best, most students would agree that having animal facilities so close to their college campus is a subtle reminder of home. ■



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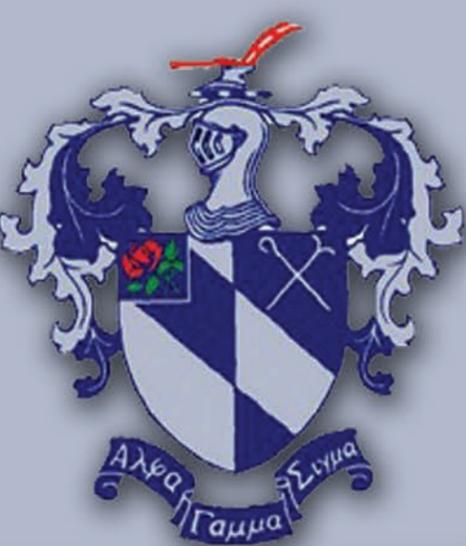


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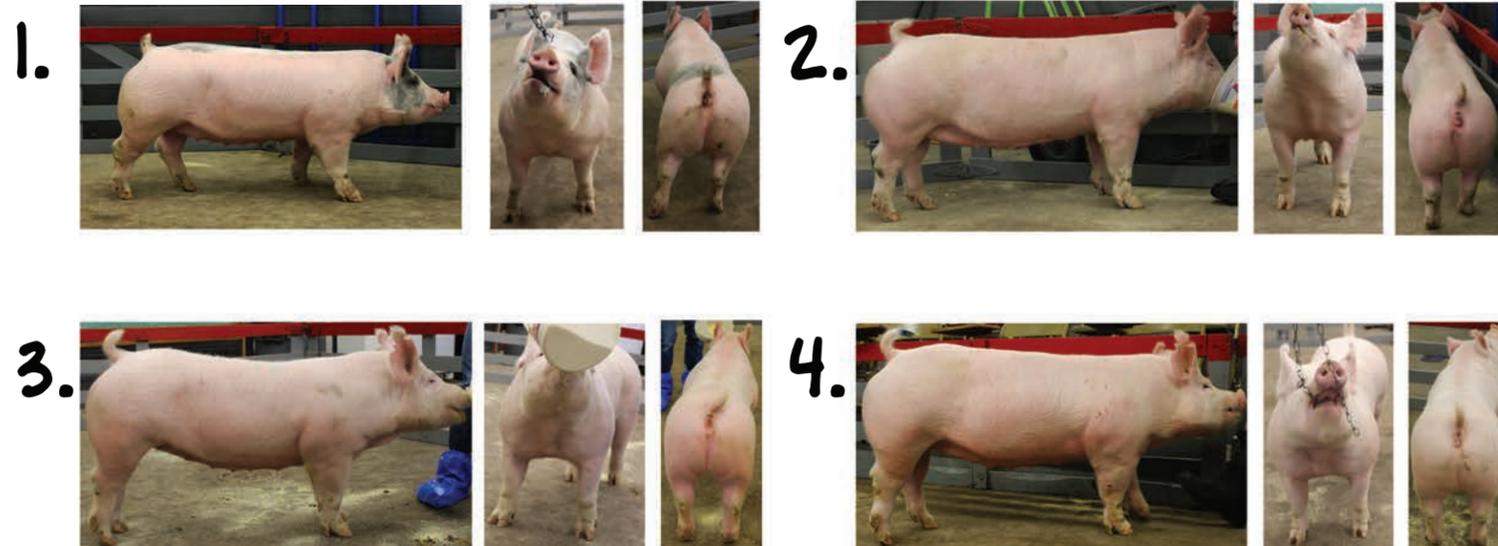
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The middle pair certainly differ in their breeding advantages. But 1 is still wider constructed who's set out further on her corners. She hooks up bolder and deeper into her fore rib and sets down on a bigger foot and bone. I love 2's build, especially from the side. She's the high headed gilt who works the most angle off either end, and it's her function that's only highlighted on the drive. Unfortunately, it's coming and going where she sorts into third. The narrower made gilt is flatter in her blade and I'd like to see her come with more width as she goes away.

There is no doubt it goes 2 - 3 here in the bottom. She hinges out of a correct hind leg; she's the better balanced one who's longer and lever out through her hip. Sure, 3 is bigger chested who's stouter in her bone and forearm, but the flat footed, tight ribbed gilt is the straightest in her hock and blade. I just have the most concern with her long term durability. Thank you.

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Show Ring vs. PRODUCTION

The gap between two different sectors of raising livestock

By: Tonya L. Fender

It is the middle of summer. Temperatures are increasing day by day, and the humidity is so stifling you almost cannot breathe. In the show barn rests the string of cattle you're preparing to show this summer. They are peacefully resting in a climate-controlled room that keeps the temperature comfortable to an exact degree and are rinsed multiple times a day with cool water so they can grow hair. Their daily feed ration depends on when their next show is.

For feedlot cattle, the summer looks quite different. Their agenda is simple compared to show string cattle. The less hair they have, the more comfortable they are in the feed yard with the summer heat. Feedlot producers look to maximize profit with cattle that efficiently gain to reach market weight and are then sent out of the feedlot to the slaughter facility.

Both scenarios sound vastly different, yet we are talking about the same thing: beef cattle. This theme doesn't end in the beef cattle industry; it can be found in other popular species like swine and sheep. Anyone can see that in cattle, swine and sheep, show-type and commercial production animals have drifted apart.

SHOW RING BEAUTY CONTEST

In the cattle industry, the show ring targets a specific market. "In the Angus breed, only about 11,000 of the 300,000 head of registered Angus were shown at junior nationals last year," said John Grimes, The Ohio State University Extension beef coordinator. "The show ring is a small representation of the industry." Since the show ring is where their stock is showcased to others in the industry, most breeders select the extreme outlier as the representation for their herd. Cattle that are oriented for the ring are managed more closely so they can be shown over the course of the year. "The biggest difference in cattle oriented for show versus production is how closely they are cared for on a daily basis and their accumulative price value," said Jacob Ruffing, herd manager at STJ Ruffing Cattle Company.

The same argument can be found in the show ring aspect of the swine industry. "The show ring is purely for entertainment," said Dan Frobese, retired Ohio State Extension agent in Wood County. When a hog is selected for a project to be shown in the ring, winning is the main concept buyers keep in mind. "Show hogs are being raised to win a banner," said Trevor Kirkpatrick, an Ohio State livestock judging team member and a junior in animal science.

There is a distinct difference in body characteristics between the hogs for the show ring and the hogs raised for production. "The common tendency for show ring oriented hogs is a shorter bodied hog that is maxed out in its muscle mass and compromising some functionality," said Frobese. According to Frobese, the breed outlier does not need to win it all, but to stand behind the more functional and complete hog and be recognized for what extremes it brings to the breed.

The frame sheep and club lamb show industry also presents signs of separation from commercial production. "In the show

ring, the frame sheep are taller and longer," said Roger High, sheep program specialist in animal sciences at Ohio State. "Most commercial producers are not interested in producing that kind of sheep." The younger generation of the sheep industry is headed toward club lamb production, as it is competitive and can produce significant success to the flock. Club lamb production is more time-consuming than raising commercial sheep.

DRIVERS OF COMMERCIAL PRODUCTION

Commercial beef cattle producers place emphasis on the Expected Progeny Differences (EPDs) that focus on a few desired traits that need improvement. "The types of cattle that are solid in their EPDs are competitive in the show ring, but not enough to win the big shows," said Grimes. "There is a definite disconnect between the two worlds."

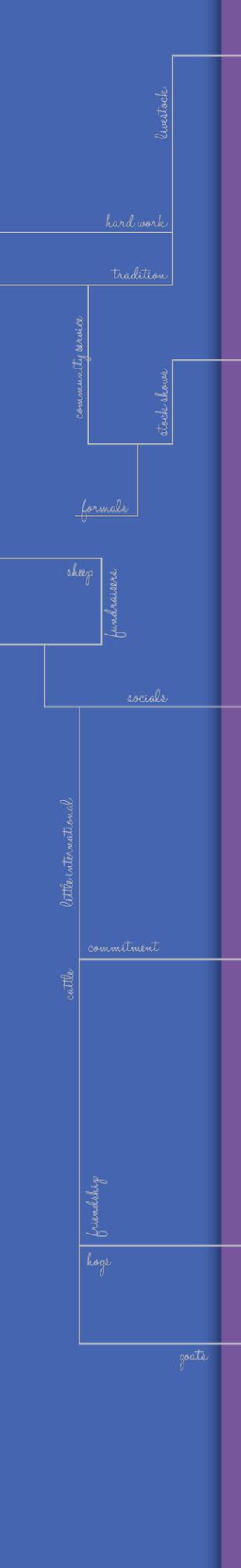
For each type of environment production cattle must endure, there are different traits that work well, however, the show ring only allows for one standardized opinion. Commercial producers put their emphasis of selection on specific traits, a straightforward process. "The commercial producers offer a really unique breeding scheme in which they are constantly improving performance through genetics, research and data collection," Ruffing said. "This effort allows for their bottom line to increase as a whole, continually." There is a clear separation between the two sectors. "Human nature takes pride in winning, but to make money we have to focus on production," said Grimes.

Commercial swine producers profit from efficient, fast-growing hogs that reach market weight in less time and are sent to the packing plant expected to harvest a quality product. According to Frobese, the big difference is in the accepted performance parameters, as commercial producers try to maximize average daily gain to reach market weight in an efficient manner. Commercial pigs are sent to the packing plant about a month sooner than show pigs. Compared to show pigs, commercial hogs are longer-bodied due to the high retail value of bacon, which comes from their sides.

While most commercial producers are not interested in frame sheep and club lambs, there is a window of opportunity that is not being utilized between the two sectors. "Commercial producers should consider the wether-type sires for their added advantages in terminal traits, such as muscle," said High. Although there is an opportunity to utilize such genetics, commercial producers are unlikely to do so. Commercial producers feel the club lamb industry is not focused on the larger picture. "Many of those small physical characteristics are just that, small; they have no real impact on the product being produced," said Megan Hunker, special projects manager at Breeders' World Online Sales.

To someone unlearned in the industry, a cow is just a cow or a pig is just a pig. However, to those involved in the cattle industry comparing show livestock to production livestock is like comparing high heels to work boots. The one in the cooler all summer is the same as the one in the sweltering heat in the feedlot. But to those involved in the industry, there are two separate stereotypes of beef cattle, one for the show ring and one for the feedlot or pasture. ■

There is a
definite disconnect
between the two worlds.
- John Grimes





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The Poultry Science Club was established for students with an interest in poultry and the poultry industry. The club is affiliated with the Department of Animal Sciences in the College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences at The Ohio State University.

The Poultry Science Club is here to help you learn more about poultry and the industry, whether you have a background in poultry or not! To join the Poultry Science Club, contact any of the officers listed below. There are no dues for membership, and food is provided at every meeting.



<http://ansci.osu.edu/undergraduate-clubs/poultry-science-club>



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SIX THINGS TO SEE OFF-CAMPUS BEFORE YOU GRADUATE

Prepare to meet the whole other world beyond the borders of Lane and King Avenues without needing a car to get around.

By: Alexandria Misch

1 400 WEST RICH

Tucked in East Franklinton, 400 West Rich is a warehouse renovated by a couple of ambitious individuals with a vision to build something great in the community. This multi-functional artist complex and event space regularly offers classes on painting, yoga, tai chi and even ariel dancing that are open to the public throughout the year. If you're feeling something more low-key, you can shop local artisan booths every other Saturday at its indoor and outdoor farmers market, or grab a drink and a bite to eat at its new restaurant Strongwater. The space is located at, you guessed it, 400 West Rich St., which is a bit of a trek, but chalk it up to an adventure and pick up the 003 COTA bus from Olentangy River Road. It will drop you right off in front of the warehouse, so don't worry about getting lost on Columbus' east side. www.400westrich.com

2 FOOD TRUCKS

Fact: There will inevitably be those nights when you're walking down High Street late at night and grab street meat from that cart outside of Midway. Also fact: This doesn't even begin to prepare you for the food truck scene in Columbus. Columbus boasts roughly 80 food trucks and the possibilities are endless if you just wander, but if that's not your style, there's always StreetFoodFinder.com to show you what trucks are close to your location. Paddy Wagon, Junior's Tacos and Explorer's Club are a great start for exploring on your own, but if you really want to get a taste of the behind-the-scenes world of mobile restaurants, consider taking a food truck tour with Columbus Food Adventures. It will run you about \$60, but the tour guides claim to show you the very best of Columbus' culinary street food. And hey, they will even drive you to and from each location just like Mom and Dad when they come to visit. www.columbusfoodadventures.com

3 THE MUSEUMS

After sitting in class all day, spending your free time "learning" probably sounds like the last thing you want to do, but just wait until you walk into one of the many museums downtown. Pro tip: If you're looking for a cheap date substitute to grabbing \$6 jumbo lime margaritas at Plaza, you can browse the Columbus Art Museum for free on Sundays or stop by the D-Tix counter for student tickets to COSI. Head down High on the 18 COTA for great way to keep it classy and get some out-of-the-classroom brain stimulation. cosi.org, columbusmuseum.com

4 COFFEE SHOPS

Skip the line at the campus Starbucks and hop on the 002 COTA down High Street for an eye opening that isn't caused just by the copious amount of caffeine you'll be consuming. Columbus loves its coffee and it isn't afraid to show it. The baristas at Café Brioso (Gay and High), Mission Coffee Co. (Price and High) and One Line Coffee (Buttles and High) will always take the time to talk about the full coffee experience, from selecting the beans to brewing the perfect cup. Coffee culture off campus is truly a learning experience. Plus, a coffee crawl to all three is exactly what you need before pulling an all-nighter for that AEDECON exam. cafebrioso.com, onelinecoffee.com, missioncoffeeco.com

5 THE PARKS

The best part about the weather turning nice in the springtime? Oval Beach is where it's at. The worst part about it? Oval Beach is where it's at, for everyone. If you're not equipped to dodge frisbees all afternoon and fight over grass space between classes, grab the 007 COTA from outside the Union and take it down Neil Avenue until you get to Goodale Park. Feeling even more exploratory? Stay on for a little longer until you reach German Village's Schiller Park. You can't go wrong with either as both parks are sure to have an abundant number of pups running around that are the perfect way to cure homesickness for the pets you inevitably had to leave at home. Why the dorms don't allow dogs we'll never know. The park is also the perfect opportunity to leave your textbooks at home and actually read for pleasure. columbus.gov/recreationalparks

6 FESTIVALS

Fitness? Food? Folk? There's a festival for that. Columbus has a year-round roster of festivals worth attending, from Dragon Boat Racing to the Doo Dah Parade. You should probably just Google both of those for yourself. Looking for a little inspiration for taking a summer class or staying in town for an internship? The warmer Ohio months are filled with festivals almost every weekend. Just here for the academic year? Keep your eyes peeled while you're on the 002 toward the Columbus Convention Center in March and you might even see The Terminator himself at the annual Arnold Sports Festival. Check out "In and Around Columbus" online for a list by month.

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