

SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE
FOR A SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY



MINORITY, WOMEN,
& SMALL FARMER'S
CONFERENCE

**Friday, April 6 &
Saturday, April 7**

**Central State University Main Campus
Wilberforce, OH**



*Central State
University*
EXTENSION

1890 Land-Grant Institution





APRIL 6 & 7, 2018

Sustainable Agriculture for a Sustainable Community
Central State University, Wilberforce, OH

Dear Conference Attendees,

Welcome to Central State University and to the 2018 Minority, Women, and Small Farmer's Conference, hosted by Central State University Extension. The goal of this conference is to provide technical information and learning opportunities to women, minorities, prospective, beginner, and/or socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers on sustainable farming practices, business aspects related to farming, and much more.

This year's conference theme is *Sustainable Agriculture for a Sustainable Community*. The ultimate benefit of adopting sustainable agriculture is keep our farms healthy and productive for future generations. Implementing these practices will also benefit the community by providing healthy, local food, and driving local economy.

This year's conference features over 20 educational presentations and panel discussions relating to our conference theme. You will also have the opportunity to network with other small farm professionals and to share practical farming knowledge. We hope this experience provides you with ideas and resources to ensure your farming practice not only survives, but thrives in today's economy.

While on campus, please take some time to learn about our University, our recent 1890 Land-Grant Institution status, and our new Extension Program. Last year, Central State University Extension (CSUE) served nearly 15,000 people across the state and provided services related to agriculture, nutrition education, 4-H Youth Development, and economic development. As we continue to grow, our aim is to provide a holistic approach to improve the overall conditions facing families in Ohio's communities, and to address agricultural issues in rural and urban locations. Over the next five years, CSUE will continue to build partnerships and expand outreach and education efforts to reach 4.2 million people in our major cities and across Ohio.

Again, welcome to Central State University and enjoy the conference!

Warm regards,

Central State University Extension Team



KEYNOTE SPEAKER



Joseph Logan
President, Ohio Farmers Union

Joseph Logan, currently serves as the President of the Ohio Farmers Union (OFU). He previously held this position from 2001 to 2007. After his first Presidential term, he served briefly as the OFU Director of Governmental relations before becoming the Director of Agricultural Programs for the Ohio Environmental Council (The OEC). He served in this position from October, 2008 – November, 2013.

Mr. Logan currently sits on the Board of Directors of the National Farmers Union (NFU), where he served as the Chairman of the Legislative Committee and their Executive Committee. He also serves on the Board of Directors of the Organization for Competitive Markets (OCM – www.Competitivemarkets.org) and the Coalition for a Prosperous America (CPA – www.Prosporousamerica.org).

Further, Joseph Logan has represented the OFU and the OEC on the Ohio Food Policy Council and the Ohio Phosphorus Task Force, a multi-agency taskforce convened to study water quality impacts from phosphorus runoff. He has previously served as the President of the National Association of Farmer Elected Committees (NAFEC 1998 - 2001), in which he represented the interests of the locally elected Committees in the Farm Service Agency offices nationwide.

In addition, Joseph Logan also served 12 years on Local and County School Boards, 1987 - 1999 (Several Terms as President), several years on the Board of Directors of Dairy Farmers of America (DFA 1997 - 2000), the Nation's Largest Dairy Cooperative, the Milk Marketing Inc. (MMI 1992 - 1997), and President of the Harpersfield Vineyard LLC from 1997 – 2005.

A fifth generation family farmer from Northeastern Ohio and father of 3 grown children, Joseph Logan has owned and operated Logan Brothers Ag Enterprises since 1977. The farm produces a variety of products including milk, beef, grains, and maple syrup. He actively farms in partnership with his brother, specializing in grass fed beef and non-GMO grain and organic crops. Joseph Logan is a graduate of Joseph Badger Local School District, 1967, and a graduate of Bowling Green State University, 1971.

SCHEDULE AT-A-GLANCE

Friday, April 6th

- 1:00 – 3:00.....Conference Registration: University Student Center, 2nd Floor Lobby
- 3:00 – 3:15.....Welcome & Introductions by Dr. Alton Johnson: University Student Center, Room 203
Director of Land-Grant, Dean of College of Engineering, Science, Technology, & Agriculture
- 3:15 – 3:20.....Tour Introduction by Michelle Smith: University Student Center, Room 203
Program Development Coordinator
- 3:20 – 4:35.....Tour of Water Resources & Greenhouse by: Dr. Ramanitharan Kandiah &
Dr. Cadance Lowell
- 4:35 – 4:45.....Break & Transition back to the University Student Center
- 4:45 – 5:45.....USDA Rural Development Informative Session: University Student Center, Room 203
Facilitator: Anthony Barwick
Community Economic Development Program Leader
Speaker: Jennifer Brown
Business Program Specialist, USDA Rural Development
- This session will provide an opportunity for attendees to learn about the USDA Rural Development office as well as the loan and grant opportunities and programs they provide in the state of Ohio.*
- 5:45 – 7:00.....Posters/Exhibits/Networking: University Student Center, Multipurpose Room

Saturday, April 7th

- 7:00 – 11:00.....Conference Registration: University Student Center, 2nd Floor Lobby
- 8:00 – 8:10.....Welcome & Introductions: University Student Center, Ballroom
- 8:10 – 9:35.....USDA Panel Discussion: University Student Center, Ballroom
- 9:35 – 9:45.....Transition Break
- 9:45 – 11:00Concurrent Session 1*
- 11:00 – 11:30.....Posters/Exhibits/Networking: University Student Center, Multipurpose Room
- 11:30 – 12:50.....Lunch/Keynote Speaker: University Student Center, Ballroom
Keynote Speaker: Joseph Logan
President, Ohio Farmers Union
- 12:50 – 1:00.....Transition Break
- 1:00 – 2:15.....Concurrent Session 2*
- 2:15 – 2:25.....Transition Break
- 2:25 – 3:40.....Concurrent Session 3*
- 3:40 – 4:00.....Transition Break
- 4:00 – 4:30.....Final Discussions/Wrap-up: University Student Center, Ballroom
- 4:30.....Posters/Exhibits/Networking: University Student Center, Multipurpose Room

*For concurrent session presentation locations, see detailed scheduled on following pages

DETAILED SCHEDULE – SATURDAY, 7 APRIL

8:00 – 8:10..... Welcome & Introductions

Welcome & Introductions, University Student Center, Ballroom
Dr. Clarence Bunch, Associate Director of Extension

8:10 – 9:35..... USDA Panel Discussion

USDA Panel Discussion, University Student Center, Ballroom

A panel of USDA Leaders from the Farm Service Agency (FSA), Forest Service (FS), Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Rural Development (RD), and Ohio Federation of Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCD) will discuss agricultural and natural resource issues, federal, state, and local programs, as well as access to financial and technical assistance for women, minorities, farmers, veterans, and communities.

Facilitator: Dr. Subramania Sritharan

Panelists:

Mindy Bankey, CEO, Ohio Federation of Soil and Water Conservation Districts
Terry Cosby, State Director, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
David Hall, State Director, USDA Ohio Rural Development
Leonard Hubert, State Director, Farm Service Agency
Anthony Scardina, Forest Supervisor, Wayne National Forest, Forest Service

9:35 – 9:45..... Transition Break

9:45 – 11:00..... Concurrent Session 1

Track A.....Agricultural Finance 9:45 a.m. - 11:00a.m.

USDA Funding Opportunities, University Student Center, Room 203

Farming is a business, and as such, farmers must make a host of financial decisions concerning sources of financial support for farms and farm-related businesses. This session will provide important information to farmers on USDA program funding opportunities that help small and beginning farmers improve the viability and profitability of farming.

Moderator: Alonzo Harris

Presenters:

John Wilson, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
David Drake, USDA Farm Service Agency

New & Beginning Farmers, Charles S. Smith Hall, Room 322

Starting a career in farming comes with its own unique set of financial challenges. Being a farmer or rancher is not simply a job change, nor is farming just a career; it is a life changing experience. Are you ready to begin farming? What are the steps? Is there financial support to start farming? This session is designed to provide important information related to access to credit, technical skills and related financial services.

Moderator: Isabel Brumley

Presenters:

Victoria Popp, Farm Credit Mid-America
Kelly Henderson, Ohio Ecological Food and Farm Association

Track B.....Farm Management

Organic Farming, Charles S. Smith Hall, Room 314

9:45 a.m. - 11:00a.m.

Organic farming is increasingly being recognized as a potential solution to many problems facing agriculture in developed and developing countries. The number of organic farmers has slowly been increasing. More farmers are converting because of the interest in health, environmental, and economic reasons. This session will share the benefits of organic farming, principles of organic farming, and practices in organic farming.

Moderator: Layne Garringer

Presenters:

William Miller, Ohio Farmers Union

Eric Pawlowski, Ohio Ecological Farm and Food Association

Pesticide Certification, Charles S. Smith Hall, Room 315

Are you applying pesticides to the property of others for hire? Do you work for a federal, state, county, township, city or village government agency or school district? Does your job involve applying pesticides to areas such as Ag land, schools, parks, golf courses, restaurants or apartment complexes? If so, you need to become a Certified Licensed Commercial Applicator. This workshop's discussion will focus on emerging issues surrounding pesticide use and organic farming, as well as the need for urban agricultural programs and pesticide certification.

Moderator: Kevin McGhee

Presenter:

Terrence Grace, Retired Ohio Department of Agriculture Pesticide Section

Track C.....Sustainable Agriculture

9:45 a.m. - 11:00a.m.

Small Farm Programs, Charles S. Smith Hall, Room 316

Small Farm Program focuses on the challenges and opportunities of small-scale farm operators. This session aims at providing information to small and moderate-scale farmers, who are often not reached by traditional extension programs. The focus of this workshop is to discuss emerging issues surrounding farming and urban agricultural programs.

Moderator: Paul Salchak

Presenters:

Nathan Rice, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service

Dr. Ibrahim Katampe, Central State University College of Engineering, Science, Technology, & Agriculture

Natural Resources, C.J. McLin, Room 220

This workshop session will show participants how various forms of alternative energy solutions, such as solar energy, can be used on urban farms, community gardens, and traditional farms to create a sustainable operation and the potential for self-sufficiency. Participants will learn about the various types of systems that exist on the market and how solar energy can supply and/or supplement many small farm energy requirements. The workshop presenter will also discuss the costs of these alternative energy systems and the means/sources to fund such projects. Related topics will include energy-efficiency considerations for agricultural operations.

Moderator: Fred Williams

Presenter:

Brent Boyd, Solar Power & Light, LLC

Track D.....Urban Agriculture

9:45 a.m. - 11:00a.m.

Community Gardening & Urban Farming, Charles S. Smith, Room 323

In this session presenters will share their expertise and experiences to inform participants about what it takes to have a viable farming/gardening operation in a city setting. Participants will acquire insight on ways to plan and design their own gardens. Other topics include the basic steps to starting a community garden, soil testing, and garden bed style.

Moderator: Clare Thorn

Presenters:

Lisa Craig, Central State University Extension
James Hoffer, The Foodbank, Inc.

Aquaculture/Aquaponics, C.J. McLin, Room 224

Aquaculture is also known as fish or shellfish farming. Aquaculture includes the production of seafood from hatchery fish and shellfish, which are grown to market size in ponds, tanks, cages, or raceways. Aquaponics is a system of raising aquatic animals with hydroponics in a symbiotic environment. This is the breeding, rearing, and harvesting of plants and animals. Aquaponics and aquaculture producers are "farming" fish. This session intends to share information about aquaculture and aquaponics farming production.

Moderator: Jodi Black

Presenters:

Damien Forshe and Keymah Durden, Rid-All Corporation
Donovan Larkins, Shekinah Ranch

Community and Agriculture, Charles S. Smith Hall, Room 216

Urban agriculture is growing by leaps and bounds, and people all over are faced with new opportunities to make a significant impact in their community. Urban agriculture provides benefits to struggling communities, including increasing access to healthy food, workforce training and job development, and neighborhood revitalization. Participants will be provided ideas and strategies to engage in urban agriculture with traditional agricultural organizations.

Moderator: Prosper Doamekpor

Presenters:

Robert Stewart, National Park Service
Karen Levin, Levin Foundation

Track E..... Research and Extension

9:45 a.m. - 11:00a.m.

Soil Monitoring & Soil Health, C.J. McLin, Room 117

Good soil health is the foundation for productive farming practices. This session will define what soil health is and discuss the importance of monitoring soil health for sustainable crop production. Participants will learn strategies to monitor soil vigor using various indicators.

Moderator: Dr. Marcus Nagle

Presenters:

Dr. Sakthi Subburayalu, Central State University Research
Dr. Oliver Freeman, Central State University Extension

Apiculture, C.J. McLin, Room 118

Presenters will discuss recently published research on the health of migratory honeybees, which are used heavily for pollination through the country, and provide the information on the future bee research at Central State University. Attendees will learn about factors affecting honeybee health and how to be involved in sustainable apiculture development.

Moderator: Renita Porter

Presenters:

Dr. Hongmei Li-Byarlay, Central State University Research
Dwight Wells, West Central Ohio Beekeepers Association

11:00 – 11:30..... Posters/Exhibits/Networking

Posters/Exhibits/Marketing, University Student Center, Multipurpose Room

11:30 – 12:50..... Lunch/Keynote Address

Lunch/Keynote Address, University Student Center, Ballroom

Keynote Speaker: Joseph Logan, Ohio Farmers Union President

1:00 – 2:15..... Concurrent Session 2

Track A.....Agricultural Finance

1:00 p.m. – 2:15 p.m.

USDA Funding Opportunities, University Student Center, Room 203

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Moderator: Alonzo Harris

Presenters:

John Wilson, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
David Drake, USDA Farm Service Agency

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Moderator: Isabel Brumley

Presenters:

Victoria Popp, Farm Credit Mid-America
Kelly Henderson, Ohio Ecological Food and Farm Association

Track A.....Agricultural Finance (Continued)

1:00 p.m. – 2:15 p.m.

Agribusiness, Charles S. Smith Hall, Room 324

A business plan is one of the best tools available to help farmers develop a comprehensive plan for their farm. Developing a business plan helps a producer consider all the various aspects of managing a farm including production issues, marketing, and finances. Presenters in this session will share insight on small business ownership and development benefits, as well as provide information on resources available to small business owners in the State of Ohio.

Moderator: Ron Todd

Presenters:

Anthony Barwick, Central State University Extension

Ambrose Moses, III, Central State University Extension

Track B.....Farm Management

1:00 p.m. - 2:15 p.m.

Organic Farming, Charles S. Smith Hall, Room 314

Organic farming is increasingly being recognized as a potential solution to many problems facing agriculture in developed and developing countries. The number of organic farmers has slowly been increasing. More farmers are converting because of the interest in health, environmental, and economic reasons. This session will share the benefits of organic farming, principles of organic farming and practices in organic farming.

Moderator: Layne Garringer

Presenters:

William Miller, Ohio Farmers Union

Eric Pawlowski, Ohio Ecological Farm and Food Association

Pesticide Certification, Charles S. Smith Hall, Room 315

Are you applying pesticides to the property of others for hire? Do you work for a federal, state, county, township, city or village government agency or school district? Does your job involve applying pesticides to areas such as Ag land, schools, parks, golf courses, restaurants or apartment complexes? If so, you need to become a Certified Licensed Commercial Applicator. This workshop's discussion will focus on emerging issues surrounding pesticide use and organic farming, as well as the need for urban agricultural programs and pesticide certification.

Moderator: Kevin McGhee

Presenter:

Terry Grace, Retired Ohio Department of Agriculture Pesticide Section

Track C.....Sustainable Agriculture

1:00 p.m. - 2:15 p.m.

Veterans & Agriculture, Charles S. Smith Hall, Room 216

Farming is a risky business and has become increasingly difficult to enter over the past few decades. For military veteran farmers in this country, starting and managing a successful farm operation is met with even greater challenges. This session will allow you to discover specific agricultural and educational opportunities available for veterans in Ohio. You will learn how veterans can gain access to training, as well as how to develop transition skills that yield to sustainable agriculture ventures.

Moderator: Wendy Berry-West

Presenters:

Charlie Hayman, Rid-All Corporation

Dr. Saima Bashir, Central State University College of Business

Natural Resources, C. J. McLin, Room 220

Do you have questions on soil and water conservation programs and techniques? This session will provide information to attendees regarding approaches that can help farmers plan for, and implement conservation and forest measures on their land to protect and enhance soil, water, woodlands, and other natural resources.

Moderator: Fred Williams

Presenters:

Dr. Ramanitharan Kandiah, Central State University

Dr. Joanne Rebbeck, USDA Forest Service

Local Food Systems, Charles S. Smith Hall, Room 217

Presenters will discuss the latest information on tools and programs that support direct marketing, food hubs, local meat and poultry, farm-to-school, and much more. You will leave knowing the landscape of the local food systems' movement at the local, state and federal level and the opportunities to be part of and contribute to a more sustainable and resilient food system.

Moderator: Donna Kuykendall

Presenters:

Amalie Lipstreu, Ohio Ecological Food and Farm Association

Sherry Chen, Andelain Fields

Dr. Pratibha Gupta, Central State University Extension & Research

Track D..... Urban Agriculture

1:00 p.m. - 2:15 p.m.

Community Gardening & Urban Farming: Extending Your Growing Season, Charles S. Smith, Room 323

Few gardeners are content with the length of their growing season, and the Midwest is notorious for unpredictable weather. This session will share information about how farmers can extend their production and marketing season using a variety of ways to shelter crops or ornamentals from cold temperatures and harsh elements. Presenters will also discuss a USDA-funded program that offers financial assistance opportunities to current growers for high tunnels.

Moderator: Clare Thorn

Presenters:

Lisa Craig, Central State University Extension

John Williams, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service

Aquaculture/Aquaponics, C.J. McLin, Room 224

Aquaculture is also known as fish or shellfish farming. Aquaculture includes the production of seafood from hatchery fish and shellfish, which are grown to market size in ponds, tanks, cages, or raceways. Aquaponics is a system of raising aquatic animals with hydroponics in a symbiotic environment. This is the breeding, rearing, and harvesting of plants and animals. Aquaponics and aquaculture producers are "farming" fish. This session intends to share information about aquaculture and aquaponics farming production.

Moderator: Jodi Black

Presenters:

Damien Forshe and Keymah Durden, Rid-All Corporation

Donovan Larkins, Shekinah Ranch

Track E..... Research and Extension

1:00 p.m. - 2:15 p.m.

Carbon Sequestration, C.J. McLin, Room 117

Extreme weather has increased in intensity and frequency, indicating that safe levels of atmospheric greenhouse gases have been exceeded. While climate solutions have been focused on reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, land use changes that sequester carbon are needed to reduce existing atmospheric CO2 levels. Carbon farming approaches will mean a transformation to biological and ecological methods, and can sequester massive amounts of carbon in biomass and soil. Learn what these powerful natural systems do to cool earth's surface and atmosphere, while providing other significant benefits to farms and communities.

Moderator: Dr. Marcus Nagle

Presenter:

Glenn Gall, Community Solutions

Healthy Communities, Charles S. Smith Hall, Room 218

This session will increase awareness of food, nutrition, and health and wellness initiatives across America that keep our communities healthy. Experts from the food, nutrition, and health and wellness industry will talk about medication therapy, best practices, and share information on diabetes management. Additionally, attendees will learn about the latest news and research initiatives that are taking place in an effort to keep our communities healthy.

Moderator: Dr. Mary Kershaw

Presenters

Joyce Jones, Ziks Pharmacy

Pat Bebo, Ohio State University Extension

Farmers Markets, Charles S. Smith Hall, Room 316

Farmers Markets provide opportunities for communities to access local food, avenues for farm-direct sales for farmers, and a place for people to meet and socialize while supporting agriculture. The goal of this session is to give participants the information they need to understand the basic concepts and benefits of a farmers market, creating a farmers market, and operating a local farmers market.

Moderator: Dr. Prosper Doamekpor

Presenter:

Deborah Beard, Bethel Lane Farms

Apiculture, C.J. McLin, Room 118

Presenters will discuss recently published research on the health of migratory honeybees, which are used heavily for pollination through the country, and provide the information on the future bee research at Central State University. Attendees will learn about factors affecting honeybee health and how to be involved in sustainable apiculture development.

Moderator: Renita Porter

Presenters:

Dr. Hongmei Li-Byarlay, Central State University Research

Dwight Wells, West Central Ohio Beekeepers Association

2:15 – 2:25..... Transition Break

Track A.....Agricultural Finance

2:25 p.m. – 3:40 p.m.

Agribusiness, Charles S. Smith Hall, Room 324

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Moderator: Ron Todd

Presenters:

Anthony Barwick, Central State University Extension
Ambrose Moses, Central State University Extension

Track B.....Farm Management

2:25 p.m. – 3:40 p.m.

Women in Agriculture, Charles S. Smith Hall, Room 322

Women play a vital role in the agricultural industry. Women in agriculture, however, have often been overlooked and therefore take advantage of fewer technical resources and opportunities than their counterparts. In this session, presenters will share their experiences and expertise as farmers, leaders, and professionals in the field of agriculture to help encourage and empower other women to take on the challenges facing the agricultural industry.

Moderator: Renita Porter

Presenters:

Rachael Vonderhaar, Vonderhaar Farms Inc.
Ta Trecia Davis, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service

Track C.....Sustainable Agriculture

2:25 p.m. - 3:40 p.m.

Veterans & Agriculture, Charles S. Smith Hall, Room 216

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Moderator: Wendy Berry-West

Presenters:

Charlie Hayman, Rid-All Corporation
Dr. Saima Bashir, Central State University College of Business

Track C.....Sustainable Agriculture (Continued)**2:25 p.m. - 3:40 p.m.****Local Food Systems, Charles S. Smith Hall, Room 217**

Presenters will discuss the latest information on tools and programs that support direct marketing, food hubs, local meat and poultry, farm-to-school, and much more. You will leave knowing the landscape of the local food systems' movement at the local, state and federal level and the opportunities to be part of and contribute to a more sustainable and resilient food system.

Moderator: Donna Kuykendall

Presenters:

Amalie Lipstreu, Ohio Ecological Food and Farm Association

Sherry Chen, Andelain Fields

Dr. Pratibha Gupta, Central State University Extension & Research

Track D..... Urban Agriculture**2:25 p.m. - 3:40 p.m.****Community Gardening & Urban Farming: Extending Your Growing Season, Charles S. Smith, Room 323**

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Moderator: Clare Thorn

Presenters:

Lisa Craig, Central State University Extension

John Williams, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service

Track E..... Research and Extension**2:25 p.m. - 3:40 p.m.****Soil Monitoring & Soil Health, C.J. McLin, Room 117**

Good soil health is the foundation for productive farming practices. This session will define what soil health is and discuss the importance of monitoring soil health for sustainable crop production. Participants will learn strategies to monitor soil vigor using various indicators.

Moderator: Dr. Marcus Nagle

Presenters:

Dr. Sakthi Subburayalu, Central State University Research

Dr. Oliver Freeman, Central State University Extension

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Moderator: Dr. Mary Kershaw

Presenters

Joyce Jones, Ziks Pharmacy

Pat Bebo, Ohio State University Extension

SPEAKER PROFILES

Track A.....Agricultural Finance

Anthony Barwick is a Dayton, OH native and business executive with over a decade of procurement and contracting experience within the public, private, for-profit/non-profit, municipal, state, and government sectors. He is sought for his expertise in professional consulting, global business, diversity inclusion, business counseling & development, project management, and identifying businesses for cultivating growth, scale, and sustainability. Anthony has a successful record as a results-driven, fiscally proficient, operational expert, and strategic management professional.

Ambrose Moses, III, JD is a business lawyer with many years of experience advising, counseling, training, representing, and advocating for startup, emerging, and established entrepreneurs and businesses. Ambrose currently serves as the Cuyahoga County Agent for Central State University Extension. His primary area of focus is community and economic development. He is actively focused on building a wider, active, and influential array of individual, community, government, and non-government partners who are ready, willing, and able to work with him and CSU Extension to develop, plan, and implement Extension programming in Cleveland, Cuyahoga County, and across Ohio that reaches the unreachable and helps those who feel abandoned as our cities and counties experience economic resurgence.

David Drake, Farm Loan Chief for USDA's Farm Service Agency in Ohio, is responsible for all loan making and loan servicing activities for USDA's Farm Loan Programs in the state of Ohio, which includes a loan portfolio of over \$1.3 Billion dollars. Mr. Drake has been with USDA for 37 years, serving as County Supervisor, Farm Loan Specialist and as Farm Loan Chief for the last 30 years. He received a Bachelor of Science degree from The Ohio State University in agriculture education, and has taught vocational agriculture. David is also the owner/operator of an Angus cow/calf, alfalfa hay and grain farm in east central Ohio. From January 1, 2016 to January 13, 2017, David served as the Assistant Deputy Administrator for Farm Loan Programs for USDA's Farm Service Agency in Washington, D. C., assisting in the supervision of a nationwide loan portfolio of over \$24 Billion.

John Wilson is a 1987 graduate of Alcorn State University and holds Bachelors of Science degrees in Agricultural Economics and Agricultural Education. John has held various positions with NRCS ranging from a student trainee, to positions at the field, area, and state level. He is currently the Assistant State Conservationist for Programs.

Kelly Henderson is an Ohio native with a passion for revitalizing rural and urban farm communities in the heartland. She received her Bachelor's degree in Horticulture and Natural resources at The Ohio State University and Master's degree in Agricultural and Extension Education at New Mexico State University. Kelly has worked in agricultural education programs in the Midwest and Southwest regions within various contexts of the food system, including: natural resource conservation, food and agriculture curriculum development, regional food system needs assessments, intergenerational community development and organic certification. In her current role as the Begin Farming Program Coordinator at OEFFA, Kelly develops educational programs to train aspiring and early-career, organic and sustainable farmers in the greater Midwest region.

Victoria Popp is a Growing Forward Specialist with Farm Credit Mid-America, a large agricultural lending cooperative that covers Ohio, Kentucky, Indiana and Tennessee. Originally from Cincinnati, Victoria grew up in the city but realized her passion for agriculture and pursued a Bachelor of Science in Animal Science from the Ohio State University. She began her career with Farm Credit as an intern, then worked in recruitment for two years before starting a new role with the Growing Forward team. Today she works directly with young, small and beginning producers in the state of Ohio to help them start and grow their operations.

Track B.....Farm Management

Eric Pawlowski is the Sustainable Agriculture Educator with the Ohio Ecological Food and Farm Association, one of the nation's oldest and largest organic certification agencies. Eric has extensive experience managing certified organic and biodynamic diversified production and livestock operations. Eric is an organic inspector, food safety auditor and agroecosystems management consultant.

Rachael Vonderhaar is a wife to Alan, and mother to Adam, Ryan, Caroline, & Elena (exchange daughter from Italy). She farms corn, soybeans, and wheat in Preble County, Ohio with her husband and father-in-law, Len. Their operation, Vonderhaar Farms Inc. also raises cattle and sheep. She is a 4-H advisor and currently serves on: the Preble County Farm Service Agency County Committee (2016 President), the Ohio Small Grains Checkoff (2016 Secretary), Preble County Farm Bureau Board (Public Policy Chair), Advisory Committee for Farm Credit (Preble County), 2016 Nominating Committee for Farm Credit of Mid-America, Friends of Preble County 4-H Inc. (Treasurer), & Ohio Agri-Women (President).

Ta Trecia Davis is a graduate of the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff where she received her Bachelor of Science in Agriculture Economics. After graduation she started her career with the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service. She currently resides in Columbus, Ohio and is the Assistant State Conservationist for Special Projects. She is responsible for outreach, and partnering and building relationships with other federal, state, and non-governmental organizations that have the same mission as the NRCS.

Terrence Grace is a graduate of the United States Army Academy of Health Sciences where he majored in Environmental Health/Preventive Medicine. He served a combined 22 years of service in the United States Army, United States Army Reserves, and the Ohio Army National Guard as an enlisted and officer personnel. Currently, Terrence Grace is a Research Assistant with the Center of Excellence in Regulatory Tobacco Science at The Ohio State University's College of Public Health. In this role, Mr. Grace's research focuses on providing evidence for policy decision making by utilizing survey-based studies of tobacco users.

William R. Miller is the Vice President of the Ohio Farmers Union. He and his wife, Sibyl, own and operate a 160 acre, certified organic farm in Preble County, which they have operated as a second (retirement) career for the past 15 years. He is the Treasurer of Experience Works, a nation-wide, work experience and job training program, serving low income, rural adults. He serves as a member of the Humane Society of the United States Ohio Agricultural Advisory Council and is a past member of the United States Department of Agriculture's Minority Farmer Advisory Committee. He is a member of the Dayton Regional Manufacturing Task Force, the Treasurer of the NAACP-Oxford Unit, and is a member of the Institutional Review Board of Miami University. He holds a Master's Degree from the New School For Social Research in New York City and a BA Degree from Miami University.

Track C.....Sustainable Agriculture

Amalie Lipstreu is a policy coordinator for the Ohio Ecological Food and Farm Association (OEFFA). OEFFA is a membership-based, grassroots organization, dedicated to promoting and supporting sustainable, ecological, and healthful food systems. As policy coordinator Amalie advocates for policies that advance sustainable agriculture, protect the economic and environmental integrity of organic and sustainable farming contributing to healthy local food systems. She possesses over eight years of food and agriculture experience, including prior management of the Ohio Food Policy Advisory Council at the Ohio Department of Agriculture where she directed Sustainable Agriculture Programs, the state Specialty Crop Block Grant Program and Governor Strickland's Ohio Neighborhood Harvest Initiative. Her experience also includes financial and grants management and more than 25 years in public and social service.

Brent Boyd has spent most of his adult life participating in all stages of advanced technology: starting and managing technology ventures, designing and developing technology intensive products, and providing strategic advisory as a management consultant. His professional career in technology spans 30 years, divided among multinational corporations, high growth entrepreneurial organizations and the federal sector. Mr. Boyd is widely considered to be an entrepreneur, global technology executive and advisory expert in the areas of market research, financial analysis, product management and strategy development. He is COO of Solar Power & Light and serves on numerous boards including the Central State University Extension Butler County Advisory Board. Mr. Boyd has a BS in Computer and Electrical Engineering from Purdue University, 1988; and an MBA from Case Western Reserve University in 1999.

Dr. Ibrahim Katampe is an Associate Professor of Chemistry and the current Interim Chair of the Department of Natural Sciences at Central State University. He is published in several academic journals and is an inventor with over 6 patents. Dr. Katampe is an active member of both the University and the Dayton community; he is a member of the board of trustees of the Dayton Area Chamber of Commerce and the board of trustees of the Montgomery County Workforce Development and Investment Board. He is a recipient of several awards including the prestigious Planet Africa Science and Technology Award by the planet Africa Group, Canada and the SOIN award for Technology Innovation by the Montgomery County, Ohio, USDA Capacity Building Grant.

Dr. Joanne Rebbeck has been a research scientist with the USDA Forest Service, Northern Research Station for 28 years in Delaware, Ohio. Growing up in Trenton, NJ, she embraced gardening under the guidance of her grandmother. While studying at Rutgers University, she received a B.S. in Horticulture and M.S. in Plant Pathology. She received a Ph.D. in Botany from North Carolina State University. She started her career studying air pollution impacts on field crops and forests; then shifted to studying how forest management practices impact oak regeneration and the spread of invasive plants. In addition, she mentors student researchers and works to engage urban youth with hands-on outdoor conservation education activities.

Nathan Rice is Area Resource Conservationist with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) for Area 4 based out of the Englewood Ohio office. Nathan serves 17 counties in SW Ohio providing conservation planning, training, and assistance to NRCS field office employees and assists them with getting conservation on the ground on private lands. Prior to working for Ohio NRCS in 2009, Nathan spent time working for Utah NRCS, and the Indiana Department of Environmental Management. Nathan holds a BS and MS from Purdue University in Agricultural Systems Management.

Dr. Pratibha Gupta holds her Ph.D. in Biochemistry-Zoology, and is specialized in Cancer immunology with post-doctoral research experience in ophthalmology, hematology and surgery. She has published numerous papers in reputed international journals. After teaching for 19 years she developed a passion towards the field of health and wellness, prevention of future diseases by implementing life style changes, proper nutrition and exercise. She follows the principles of nutrigenomics. She is an active member of the American Association of Exercise Physiology, American Public Health Association, American Council on Exercise, American Society on Nutrition, and American College of Sports Medicine, and is certified in Nutrition for Health Promotion and Disease Prevention. Dr. Gupta has presented several health seminars and cooking workshops to both adults and children in academic and social environments.

Dr. Ramanitharan Kandiah is a Professor of Environmental Engineering, Department of Water Resources Management, Central State University, Wilberforce, Ohio. He is a co-author of the textbook, Introduction to Water Resources. He holds a Ph.D. in Civil engineering from Tulane University and is a registered Professional Civil Engineer in Ohio.

Dr. Saima Bashir is an Associate Professor of Business Administration in the College of Business at Central State University.

Track D.....Urban Agriculture

Donovan Larkins is founder and President of Spirit of Life Christian Center, Shekinah Ranch, and Shekinah Ranch Foundation. Shekinah Ranch, an interactive, hands-on agriculture education and life learning center housed on a 150 acre campus in Dayton, Ohio that engages youth and young adults in interactive learning in character development and leadership training. He is developing systems to aid minority communities in natural food and specialty crop production to address food desert disparities to help in urban health initiatives. These interactive programs include sustainable agriculture with aquaculture, aquaponics, maple syrup production, forestry, and specialty crops for healthy and sustainable energy. Shekinah Ranch programs have serviced thousands of youth and families since its conception in 1998.

James Hoffer is the Garden Manager at The Foodbank Urban Garden in Dayton, Ohio. He received degrees / certifications from Wright State University and Ohio State University which include: Organizational Leadership, Youth & Community Engagement, Certified Master Gardener, and Community Garden Specialization Training. He has spent the last nine years developing sites to sustainably grow fruits and vegetables in urban settings; both as a volunteer for various organizations and as a market grower. James is currently working on a manual for future publication by the USDA titled “Greyfield Grower’s Guide” to serve as a how-to guide for converting vacant commercial and residential properties into productive growing spaces.

John O. Williams, III is the NRCS District Conservationist responsible for Butler and Hamilton Counties in Ohio. He received his B.S. (1995) and M.S. (1997) from Tennessee State University respectively in Agricultural Sciences with a concentration in Agronomy. John currently serves as Chairman on the Ohio NRCS Civil Rights Advisory Committee. He also serves on the Ohio NRCS Employee Development Committee and was instrumental in assisting the development of the Ohio NRCS Mentoring Program. He currently resides in Hamilton, Ohio with his wife, Shannon, and two daughters, Hannah and Rachel.

Karen Levin is a native Daytonian, serving as executive director, trustee, and secretary of the Levin Family Foundation. She was appointed to the Executive Director’s position on January 1st, 2001. Prior to her appointment, she worked in Biomedical Research at Wright State University and served as a physician assistant working in family practice and geriatrics. In 2008, she completed her Master’s degree in Public Health from Wright State University. Her favorite projects involve programs that deal with the medically underserved and children from low socioeconomic backgrounds.

Lisa Craig is Central State Extension’s County Agent for Hamilton and Butler Counties. Her background includes Urban Agriculture with an emphasis on community-based Ag education and youth curriculum development. She has worked with marginalized residents in Cape Town, South Africa to increase food production through community vertical gardening and composting. In addition to working for CSUE, she is an Opera singer and Registered Nurse.

Robert Stewart grew up in Baltimore, MD and holds his Bachelor’s in Secondary Education and his Master’s in Human Services Administration. While earning his Master’s degree, he began working for the National Park Service (NPS) at Fort Mc. Henry National Monument and Historic Shrine and Hampton National Historic Site. Robert has also served the Tuskegee Airmen National Historic Site, Tuskegee Institute National Historic Site and the Selma to Montgomery National Historic Trail. Currently Ranger Stewart is the Chief of Interpretation and Operations of the Charles Young Buffalo Soldiers National Monument in Wilberforce OH. Ranger Stewart is a member of Phi Alpha Theta History Honor Society and Phi Gamma Mu Social Sciences Honor Society, Black Pilots of America, as well as various other organizations and programs. Ranger Stewart is also known for his high pitch and thought provoking educational speeches and lectures, and is currently working with various educational institutions to bring the legacy of the Colonel Charles Young and the Buffalo Soldiers to today’s youth.

Track E.....Research & Extension

Deborah Beard has been farming since 2005, and operates Bethel Lane Farms in Wilmington, Ohio with her husband. In 2014, they were recognized by the USDA and awarded the Minority Farmer of the Year Award for the State of Ohio. Utilizing a hoop house growing system, the family grows food for most of the year and actively participates in farmers markets across the state of Ohio. Bethel Lane Farms is certified to accept WIC and SNAP benefits.

Dwight Wells is President of West Central Ohio Beekeepers Association, VP of Ohio Queen and Nuc Producers, OSBA Director-Top Of Ohio, founding member of the Heartland Honey Bee Breeders Cooperative, Director of Sustainable Genetics Technology Network, and Assistant Project Manager on his fourth USDA SARE Grant Project testing chewing and grooming behavior bees in a blind study with commercial bees. Additional projects include swarm trapping, testing colonies for Varroa resistance and tolerance, training and mentoring beekeepers and giving presentations on beekeeping subjects. Dwight started keeping honey bees in 1954 as a Penn State 4-H club member.

Glenn Gall, following a lengthy career in polymer research, has studied, practiced and presented on permaculture, holistic management, soil biology, biological farming, water harvesting, agroforestry, climate, and nutrition, as well as the ways these are interrelated, and especially on how improving land-based biological systems can affect climate and weather. He has worked in eco-farming and with agricultural and climate related organizations. Glenn lives in Oberlin, Ohio, and is currently a board member of Community Solutions in Yellow Springs, Ohio working with their new farm, Agraria.

Dr. Hongmei Li-Byarlay was born in a Chinese farmer's family and grew up in Tianjin, China. She obtained her doctoral degree from Purdue University with research specialized in insect genetics. She started to study honeybee behavior and genetics in 2010 and fell in love with this social insect. Recent research topics include genetic mechanisms of social behavior, oxidative stress, and longevity of honey bee (*Apis mellifera*). She has published 29 scientific papers and book chapters in a variety of journals and has given talks to many beekeepers and the general public in Central Illinois and North Carolina. She has been a hobby beekeeper since 2010.

Joyce Jones is Director of Marketing at ZIKS Family Pharmacy & Home Medical Equipment. Ms. Jones returned to Dayton from Atlanta to join ZIKS Family Pharmacy in May, 2015. She has 15+ years of combined experience in marketing, sales and public relations. Ms. Jones has a Bachelor of Science Degree in Business Administration from the University of Maryland, and is a member of PRSA—Public Relations Society of America. She is a published freelance writer, and enjoys travel, swimming, golf and horsemanship.

Pat Bebo gives lead to the Ohio State University Extension Family and Consumer Sciences Program with over 170 staff and \$10 million in funding. The two largest programs she oversees are the state-wide federal nutrition education programs, SNAP-Ed and EFNEP. Prior to her move to Columbus, Pat worked for nine years for UMass Amherst Extension as an Extension Educator and was an adjunct professor in the College of Nursing for UMass Boston. She has participated in many community and state level obesity prevention initiatives, and has been involved in nutrition policy development as well. She has had considerable experience in the development of nutrition-focused curricula for all ages, and has been involved in several award winning community obesity prevention initiatives.

Dr. Sakthi Subburayalu is a Research Assistant Professor of Soil Science and Agronomy in the Agricultural Research and Development program at Central State University. Dr. Subburayalu has a PhD from The Ohio State University. His research at Central State involves assessing the impact of agricultural best management practices on soil health and water quality, mapping soil and field variation using remotely sensed airborne imaging data and geographic information system, and soil fertility studies.



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