

2021 OEFFA CONFERENCE WORKSHOP SCHEDULE

Workshops are subject to change without notice.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 11

Workshop Session I: 1:00-2:00 p.m. ET

Advocating for Organic—Patty Lovera, *Organic Farmers Association*

How can we get Congress to support organic farmers? Learn how to lobby your elected officials, prepare for in-person or virtual meetings, and make your voice heard in the legislative process! The Organic Farmers Association (OFA)'s policy director Patty Lovera will cover how to schedule a meeting with your members of Congress and their staff, how to prepare, what to say, and how to create ongoing communication with elected officials. Leave prepared to advocate for the issues you care about and to participate in the OFA's 2021 virtual lobby days.

Three Practical Strategies to Improve Access to Fruits and Vegetables Among Vulnerable Populations—Kamyar Enshayan, *University of Northern Iowa*

Agricultural engineer Kamyar Enshayan will detail three community-scale, low-cost, high-impact strategies that any community can plan and implement to improve access to locally grown fruits and vegetables while supporting local farms. He will share results from several years of work and seek your insights for discussion.

Proven Strategies for Profitable Urban Agriculture—Lisa Helm Hancock, *Dayton Urban Grown Cooperative*

Urban agriculture is poised to become the new model for food production in a warming world. Small spaces resist mechanization and invite plant diversity, while no-till growing produces healthier soil, plants, and atmosphere. Small spaces also demand intensive production, specialized techniques, and specific knowledge that can result in more profitable returns. Experienced urban farmer Lisa Helm Hancock has studied these techniques with some of the best in the business and implemented them in her own work; she will pass along keys to success in small-scale vegetable production.

Setting Up an Efficient Seed Starting Workspace—George Mertz, *Patchwork Gardens*

George Mertz of Patchwork Gardens has spent years building an efficient and productive seed starting workspace with the goal of growing consistently good transplants for his farm. Most of this seed starting infrastructure has been designed and built by George and other farm employees with commonly available materials and tools. Whether you adopt Patchwork's whole system or bits and pieces, George will share many low-cost tools and gadgets to inspire any do-it-yourself farmer.

Utilizing Side-Dressed Swine Manure in Organic Corn—Eric Richer and Glen Arnold, *The Ohio State University Extension*

While swine manure has often been used as a pre-plant nutrient source in organic systems, this session will discuss utilizing raw, liquid swine manure as a side-dress nitrogen source for organic corn. With appropriate timing and subsurface placement, this organic nutrient source may improve yields on your farm.

Poultry Disease Diagnosis—Mohamed El-Gazzar, *Iowa State University*

Poultry diagnostician, epidemiologist, and outreach veterinarian Dr. Mohamed El-Gazzar will teach both novice and expert poultry farmers key skills for conducting a preliminary poultry diagnosis. Learn how to identify and address health issues in your own flock and communicate more effectively with poultry health professionals.

When Your Cows are Tired of Hearing About It: Addressing Farmer Mental Health—

Kelly Cabral, *The Ohio State University*

If you are starting to feel like your crops and livestock might be tired of hearing you talk about your farm, business, and personal stressors, this is a workshop for you. It is important to be able to identify the signs and impacts of stress, anxiety, and depression so that you can build a safety net for yourself and other farmers to prevent a crisis. Suicide awareness and prevention, though a tough topic to tackle, will be discussed in a facilitated format. Through open and safe discussion spaces, this workshop will help you recognize these signs, make an action plan, and provide you with resources and services that can support overall farmer wellness.

Growing and Thriving on E-Commerce for Farmers' Markets—Ross Olsen and Sam

Sharkey, *Ohio Farmers' Market Network*

Many farmers' markets around the state adopted online ordering systems in response to the COVID-19 crisis. These platforms brought challenges, but also created significant opportunity. Farmers' market managers Ross Olsen and Sam Sharkey of the Ohio Farmers' Market Network will share their experiences managing online ordering this year and offer key takeaways for managers and vendors. They will discuss the available platform options for multivendor markets and the latest developments in e-commerce platforms.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 11

Workshop Session II: 4:30-5:30 p.m. ET

Creating Fair, Democratic Workplaces: Walking Our Talk—Liz Henderson, *Agricultural Justice Project*

In our movement, we talk a lot about food justice. Meanwhile, family-scale farmers struggle financially, structural violence keeps farm and food system workers unorganized and poorly paid, with people of color at the bottom. Many change groups lack internal policies that ensure full participation and respect for everyone who wishes to contribute. Under the pressures of farming, serving food, or running a nonprofit, folks may not learn relevant laws and regulations, document well-intentioned practices, or go beyond legal to what is fair. The purpose of this workshop is to provide the information and documentation needed to live up to the claim of social justice. Together we will discuss how to create a workplace that has a comprehensive approach to justice and equity, including conflict resolution, democratic and cooperative structures, fair labor policies, health, and safety.

Tips and Tools for On-Farm Research—Cassy Brown and Elizabeth Hawkins, *The Ohio State University*

Farmers are constantly trying new ideas and observing the results. In this workshop, Cassy Brown and Elizabeth Hawkins will discuss when, why, and how to take these trials a step further by applying simple research design and data analysis. Learn about different trial designs,

practical on-farm data measurement techniques, and useful resources for designing, tracking, and funding on-farm research.

Soil Lead: Myths and Facts—Alyssa Zearley, *The Ohio State University*

Have you ever worried about lead and other contaminants in your soil? Not sure if it is safe to grow food in your own backyard? Alyssa Zearley will explore the myths and facts about soil lead and other contaminants, and show you how to grow safely.

Pivoting from Tillage to No-Till Practices in Vegetable Production—Matt Herbruck, *Birdsong Farm*

Organic vegetable farmer Matt Herbruck will discuss his own farm's four-year transition from an entirely tillage-based approach to a no-till, regenerative system. Learn about practical subjects like bed preparation and flips, weed control, pests, plotting and planning, crop selection, and small tools and equipment, as well as the broad ecological benefits of this approach. Matt will share lessons learned from both types of systems and why he settled on no-till as the most efficient, productive, and environmentally friendly way to run a market farm.

Farming with the Grain—Mark Dobson, *reMARKable Farms*

Whether row crop, large vegetable production, or small gardens, each system has an opportunity to work with the grain. Mark Dobson will discuss strategies and systems that will allow you to work as efficiently as you can with the crops and rotations in your system, while letting plants enjoy an environment they can thrive in.

Live Question and Answer with Will Harris—Will Harris, *White Oak Pastures*

Bring your questions about animal focused regenerative agriculture and farm business development to this live question and answer session with fourth-generation cattleman, “carbon cowboy,” and 2021 OEFFA conference keynote speaker Will Harris. Don’t miss this opportunity to pick the brain of one of American agriculture’s leading innovators!

Practical Biogas Systems for Home and Small Farms—Matt Steiman, *Dickinson College Farm*

Biogas is a renewable fuel made from the controlled decomposition of organic waste products through anaerobic digestion. At home or on very small farms, biogas made from manure or food waste is typically used as cooking fuel. On larger farms, biogas can be converted to electricity for on-site power and sale to the utility provider. Get practical information for building your own home-scale biogas system or developing a commercial waste-to-energy system for your farm.

COVID and Organic Agriculture: One Year Later—Kellee James and Megan Thomas, *Mercaris*

One year after COVID-19 hit the U.S., what has been the impact to the organic supply chain? From input providers and feed producers, to livestock farmers and organic consumers, everyone has been touched by this global pandemic. Kelly James and Megan Thomas of Mercaris will look at the effects on organic grain and animal protein markets, from supply to demand, analyzing the past year and providing insight into what the future could hold.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 12

Workshop Session III: 10:00-11:00 a.m. ET

Opportunity in Crisis: Building Power for a Sustainable and Just Food System in Ohio—

Tevis Foreman, *Produce Perks Midwest*, Jaime Hadji, *Ohio Farmers' Market Network*, Amalie Lipstreu, *OEFFA*, Amy Bodiker Baskes, *Ohio Food Policy Network*, Brian Estabrook, *Franklin County Economic Development and Planning*

Since the early days of the COVID-19 crisis OEFFA, the Ohio Farmers' Market Network, the Ohio Food Policy Network, and Produce Perks Midwest have worked together—gathering input from other nonprofits, land-grants, and public leaders—to represent the interests of Ohio's local food community. This pandemic laid bare the systemic injustices and fragility of our conventional food system, while highlighting the tremendous resilience of our local and regional food systems, as well as our urgent unmet needs. Together we helped protect small farms, farmers' markets, and their customers—particularly those who rely on nutrition assistance—from worst case scenarios. Moving forward we must build on our success and cultivate a diverse coalition for just and resilient local food systems that can press state and federal leaders for change. Join these food system leaders for a conversation about what was revealed in this crisis, the importance of collaborative approaches, and why we need to build our power.

Organic Machinery for No-Till and Weed Control—

Jos Pelgröm, *Treffler Man@Machine*
Every farmer world-wide, no matter how small or large, should be working on environmentally safe practices that lead to better ecosystems, and they should have the same opportunities and access to tools that will help them meet the demand of growing good food. See how the right tools can make room for a good way of farming.

Reliable, Restorative Harvests: Securing Supply with Easy-to-Grow, Nutritious Foods and Herbs—

Barbara Utendorf, *Wilmington College*
Whether growing for yourself or for others, a strong food chain flourishes with multiple, steadfast links, and one crucial link is, of course, reliable supply. In this session, Barbara Utendorf will review diverse, easy to grow foods and herbs, along with their key restorative benefits.

Successful Succession Planting and Planning for the Flower Holidays—

Dave Dowling, *Ball Seed*
Learn what cut flower varieties you should be succession planting all season to increase your harvest volume and your farm income. Having an abundant supply of cut flowers available for the six major “flower holidays” is an important strategy to increase sales. Cut flower specialist Dave Dowling will provide planting schedules and describe holiday flower strategies forfield, high tunnel, and heated greenhouse growing.

Organic Perennial Grain Crops for Grain and Forage—

Steve Culman, *The Ohio State University Extension*
This workshop will explore Kernza, a novel perennial grain that is being developed for more sustainable agricultural systems. Kernza can be harvested for both grain and forage and has the potential to provide a range of environmental benefits. Learn practical information about Kernza management and discover opportunities to conduct simple research trials on your farm as part of

a U.S. Department of Agriculture project seeking to optimize Kernza management for organic growers.

Pasture-Based Livestock: Advancing Ecological, Economic, and Emotional Resilience—

Paul Dorrance, *Pastured Providence*

As the world grapples with the stark realities of a global pandemic, the need for environmentally sound, profitable, and personally rewarding agricultural enterprises has never been greater. No matter your lens—climate-change mitigation, return-on-investment, or farmer mental health—pastured livestock offers an array of exciting opportunities and solutions. Learn how to leverage grazing ruminants to advance ecological, economic, and emotional resilience within your operation!

Ohio AgrAbility: Assistive Technology to Keep You Farming—Laura Akgerman and Rachel Jarman, *Ohio AgrAbility*

Ohio AgrAbility helps farmers with disabilities keep farming and offers advice and resources to farmers who do not have a disability but want to make their farm buildings and equipment safer and easier to use. Assistive technology can be high tech, low tech, do-it-yourself, and everything in between. Learn how modifying equipment and buildings can increase ease of use, safety, and accessibility for everyone at your farm.

Do Private Carbon Markets Make Sense for Farmers or the Climate? —Colin Mitchell, National Center for Appropriate Technology, Ben Lilliston, *Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy*

Private carbon markets for agriculture, like Indigo, promise to pay farmers for adopting better soil health practices, but questions linger about their financial benefit to farmers and their effectiveness in mitigating the climate crisis. Colin Mitchell and Ben Lilliston will explain how private carbon markets work, what farmers need to know if they are considering joining one, and where the most promising opportunities exist to advocate for small farm friendly carbon sequestration policies.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 12

Workshop Session IV: 1:00-2:00 p.m. ET

The Right to Grow: Working at the Local Level to Expand Urban Agriculture—Brittany Jones, *University of Toledo*

This workshop will equip you with practical information on how to use municipal resources to expand urban agriculture within your area. Brittany Jones will lead a conversation about how to instigate policy changes that strengthen “the right to grow” in urban spaces. This interactive session will provide space to discuss personal experiences with food system and urban agriculture work and provide recommendations for how local governmental entities should begin to prioritize urban food systems in a way that is self-sustaining and equitable.

Compost Quest for Glory: Exploring Newly Developed Methods—Nathan Rutz, *Rust Belt Riders Composting*

By now, almost everyone in farming acknowledges the central role of healthy soil biology in productive agriculture, but how the heck do we get it into our soil? Compost is one great way,

but there are many different styles and methods of composting. Nathan Rutz will explore two interesting recently developed methods: Johnson-Su composting, an aerobic, passively aerated method that promises fungal dominance, and SPICE composting from Australia, which is a fermentative anaerobic process.

Heritage Meat Rabbits for the Homestead and Small Farm—Jerah Pettibone, *Pettibone Urban Game*

Urban farmer Jerah Pettibone will lead an introduction to breed selection, breeding, housing, diet, planning, and slaughter of a home or small commercial meat rabbit herd. Gain a good idea of what to expect when raising rabbits so you can decide if they are right for your farm.

Irrigation System Design for Organic Production—Evan Axelbaum, *Front Axle Farm*

Farmer Evan Axelbaum will explain why an irrigation system is an important part of any vegetable production operation, how it can improve plant health and ultimately yields, and why it must be in place before the need arises. Explore both the “supply” and “demand” sides of the equation by learning how to calculate your water source’s supply capabilities and likely irrigation needs depending on your operation’s size, crop selection, soil type, and other conditions. Participants will also learn about different delivery systems, like sprinkler and drip, and devices for automation that ensure adequate watering while freeing up the farmer's valuable time and mental energy.

Organic Grain Market Outlook—Megan Thomas, *Mercaris*

Megan Thomas of Mercaris will provide insights into the organic grain market including the organic corn, soybean, and wheat supply outlook for 2021, organic grain prices, and organic feed demand drivers.

Forage Grasses and the Impact on Birdsfoot Trefoil—Nathan Blake, *West Virginia University*

Sheep and goats have serious parasite problems. Birdsfoot trefoil (BFT) can help prevent infection but is difficult to establish in pasture. For example, BFT establishment can be stopped by just the presence of some grasses. Learn about best forage management practices, current BFT research, and new research that identifies which common forage grasses limit BFT's growth and which bolster germination.

Civic Agriculture in a Food Desert: Healthy Living in Bronzeville—Julialynne Walker, *Bronzeville Growers Market*

In a time of economic and healthcare challenges due to COVID-19, the Bronzeville community took three existing place-based models that represent civic agriculture and modified them for pandemic conditions. The Bronzeville Agracademy and its educational offerings, a network of place-based family growers called Bronzeville Urban Growers, and the Bronzeville Growers Market now represent the resilience and stability of a community characterized as a food desert. Combined, these efforts have increased coordination and communication with respect to existing food resources and improved access to, and education about, healthy food, affordable food, and local food.

E-Commerce Solutions for Direct-Marketing Farms—Michael Parker, *National Young Farmers Coalition*

Though many direct-marketing farms had been adopting e-commerce sales platforms prior to the pandemic, in 2020 this trend accelerated dramatically. But a crisis should not decide long-term business strategy, especially for something as important as the way your customer buys your products. Michael Parker of the National Young Farmers Coalition will present a framework that can help you choose the e-commerce platform that's right for your marketing strategy, and will highlight success stories of farmers who have recently made the transition to online sales.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 13

Workshop Session V: 10:00-11:00 a.m. ET

A Bigger Food Movement: Building and Maintaining Broader Coalitions—Brennan Grayson, *Cincinnati Interfaith Workers Center and the Good Food Cincinnati Coalition*

In order to attain true sustainability, our food system must work for every stakeholder along the value chain from seed to plate. Small farmers are essential stakeholders, but so are food system workers like meat processors, food system entrepreneurs like small co-op grocers, and community members trying to access quality, affordable food. Creating this scale of transformation requires a broad coalition representing the many different people failed by our modern food system. Brennan Grayson and his colleagues will discuss how to build and maintain such a coalition, with practical insights into overcoming the challenges of working with diverse stakeholders and the importance of building power around a broader and more inclusive vision of food system change.

Organic Seeds and You: Insights from the Seed World—Daniel Eggert, *High Mowing Organic Seeds*

Daniel Eggert will “lift the veil” of the seed world by giving a behind-the-scenes explanation of organic seed development, production, and distribution. He’ll cover topics like organic variety development and product “pipelines,” current seed production challenges, and post-COVID seed availability concerns. Daniel will discuss certain organic varieties in-depth and invite with farmers to share their experiences and frustrations with seed companies and seed availability.

Incorporating Native Plants in Your Landscapes—Dianne Kadonaga, *Sunny Glen Garden*

Learn a step-by-step process to transform lawns and landscapes into native plant pollinator beds, which can increase native pollinator services for food and agricultural crops without the use of honeybees. Learn how to choose native plants best suited to your area and create patches of needed habitat and food sources for endangered pollinator species, while increasing the biodiversity needed for a healthy ecosystem.

Using Shade Cloth and Sprinklers to Mitigate Summer Heat for Leafy Greens—Michelle Nowak, *Franklinton Farms*, Tim McDermott, *The Ohio State University Extension*

Keeping our farms productive and resilient in the face of increasing summer heat and drought requires adopting new farming techniques. In summer 2020, Franklinton Farms conducted research on the effectiveness of using sprinklers and shade cloth to grow cool-sensitive greens in the heat of summer, when getting consistent results with these crops is a challenge. This research demonstrated that adopting crop cooling techniques can make a huge difference in yields.

Michelle Nowak and Tim McDermott will share details of their results, the techniques used, and how anyone can implement them.

Intensifying Cover Crops in Organic Grain Systems through Interseeding—Erin Silva, *University of Wisconsin–Madison*

Cover crops can add multiple ecosystem services to organic grain systems, including reducing erosion, retaining soil nutrients, fixing nitrogen, contributing to above and below ground biodiversity, and providing pollinator habitat. However, intensifying cover crop practices beyond planting rye after row crops can be a challenge. Dr. Erin Silva will discuss some of the research her program has conducted with different interseeding techniques, including legumes into cereal grains, planting cover crop mixtures between corn on 30” rows at last cultivation, co-planting winter cereal rye and soybeans, and interplanting cover crops with corn on 60” rows. She will also discuss some of the equipment options available to implement these techniques.

Happy Pigs Taste Better—Alice Percy, *Fedco Seeds*

Pigs are unlike any other barnyard animal: keeping them healthy and happy (while keeping your bank account in the black!) requires a very different approach from grazing sheep or cattle. This workshop provides a brief overview of hogs' unique nutritional and healthcare requirements and addresses the role of pasturing in a humane hog operation.

Breathwork For Building Resilience—Christian Totty, *LOAM Acupuncture & Herbal Medicine*

Sustaining mental, physical, emotional, and spiritual resilience is essential to a healthy and safe life on the farm. Thankfully, we already have a tool that can help to nurture a place of presence and deeper mindfulness with every inhale and exhale: the breath. In many cultures around the world the breath is considered to be sacred, and a conduit to transmit culture, healing wisdom, and ecological knowledge. Modern research is finally catching up this ancient wisdom with evidence-based studies that help to explain how the breath is directly linked to mental function and parasympathetic flexibility. During this workshop, you will spend time nourishing your inner environment through the practice of breath work. You’ll receive information on both the science and art of breathing, and you will learn foundational breathing techniques that will help to optimize oxygen supply, generate a sense of calm, and deepen your awareness of the present moment.

Marketing Organic Products in Ohio—Monica Bongue-Bartelsman, *Muddy Fork Farm*

The current marketing strategies that are successful for organic products in Ohio, as well as the challenges that many farmers face in getting their products to market, will be different depending on the size and type of operation. Monica Bongue-Bartelsman of Muddy Fork Farm will share analysis of a marketing survey, interviews with farmers, and her research on the organic marketplace in Ohio. Join her for a discussion about improving our market share and thriving in a constantly changing marketplace by creating new venues, on-line platforms, cooperatives, brands, and other innovative strategies.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 13

Workshop Session VI: 1:00-2:00 p.m. ET

Building OEFFA's Impact on the Food and Farm System—Mark Schultz

Learn how organizations with a strong footing in the practical issues of organic farming and sustainable food systems can develop and implement powerful strategies to achieve positive change in the policies, funding, and public narratives that shape our food and agriculture system. Mark Schultz, formerly of the Land Stewardship Project, will lead this discussion-starter workshop and dig into how membership organizations can build power to win campaigns and create change. Mark will share stories from his experience, and end the session with questions, responses, and discussion.

Life in the Soil: The Soil Food Web's Five Over-Arching Principles—Elaine Ingham, *Soil Food Web*

2021 OEFFA conference keynote speaker Dr. Elaine Ingham will provide an overview of each of the beneficial organism groups in the soil, what each group does, and what to look for. Learn the characteristics that differentiate beneficial organisms from disease-causing organisms, and the functions that each of the beneficial organisms performs to improve plant production.

Foraging: It's Not Just for the Wilderness—Alexis Nikole Nelson, *Black Forager*

Experienced forager Alexis Nikole Nelson will walk attendees through a full growing season's worth of edible plants often found where they are not supposed to be. She will explain how to identify a few common edible “weeds,” and give recipes for each.

Growing Late Season Tomatoes Using Suckers vs. Seeds—Guy and Sandy Ashmore, *That Guy's Family Farm*

Long-time organic vegetable farmers Guy and Sandy Ashmore have been raising tomatoes from suckers since 2013. They will share the findings from their SARE funded project that evaluated the economic impacts of growing late season tomatoes from suckers vs. seed. Join them for a practical look at a simple labor-saving strategy for growing late season tomatoes on a market farm.

Crop Rotation: Evolving, Not Revolving, for Improved Management—Joel Gruver, *Western Illinois University*

This presentation will explore strategic sequencing of crops, cover crops and tillage practices to maximize the contributions of natural processes (biotic and abiotic) in support of both production objectives and long-term soil health. These sequences can be repeated in a rotation or adjusted in response to changes in factors such as markets, weather, and labor availability. Examples will be provided from the WIU Organic Research Farm and other organic farms in the Midwest region.

How Dairy Farms Can Thrive in Our Changing World—Mark McAfee, *Organic Pastures Dairy*

Dairy farms across the country are in crisis and failing, but you can create a different path for your dairy. Learn how dairy farms can thrive through being adaptive, resilient, and consumer connected.

Mulberry: An Easy Fruit and Forage Crop for Any Farm—Weston Lombard, *Solid Ground Farm*

Looking for a low-maintenance, highly productive tree crop to diversify farm income? Mulberries provide consistent crops of nutritious, delicious fruit and protein-rich forage, and they grow virtually anywhere. Mulberry enthusiast Weston Lombard will help you effectively diversify your farm income by walking you through site and cultivar selection, tree training and maintenance requirements, and harvesting and processing considerations.

What's Your Break Even Price?—Ellen Polishuk, *Plant To Profit*

Small-scale growers need to know which crops they are most efficient at growing and what price they need charge to cover costs and make a profit. A farm consultant with 35 years of vegetable farming experience, Ellen Polishuk will share tools and techniques to help small farmers discover where their breakeven prices are and identify money losing crops in their roster.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 14

Workshop Session VII: 1:00-2:00 p.m. ET

Getting Your Hands Dirty: Fighting Polluting Energy Projects in Our Communities—Rose Monahan and Lauren Ketcham, *Friends of Perry State Forest*

Rural communities across Ohio constantly face an onslaught of dirty energy projects, like coal mines, pipelines, fracking wells, and compressor stations which press up against property lines, pollute our air and water, and harm our quality of life. The state's regulatory process is confusing to navigate, thereby favoring powerful companies over the citizens who will be directly impacted, and Ohio's agencies all too often require significant public oversight to ensure that these industries comply with environmental laws. Rose Monahan and Lauren Ketcham will share how one community in rural southeast Ohio overcame these obstacles and protected 500 acres of the Perry State Forest from strip mining. An attorney with the Sierra Club, Rose will explain the regulatory process these projects have to go through, and Lauren will discuss the specific strategies the group used on the ground to engage in the permitting process, file an appeal, raise funds, and grow community support. Leave inspired to take on dirty energy projects in your own community!

Supporting Beneficial Birds and Managing Pest Birds—Jo Ann Baumgartner, *Wild Farm Alliance*

In North America, bird populations have declined by about 3 billion, or 29 percent, over the past half-century. Just as we brought waterfowl back by conserving wetlands, farmers can help turn these numbers around by providing habitat for birds that benefit the farm. Beneficial birds act the same way that beneficial insects do: they help with pest control when farms provide for their needs. Researchers are partnering with farmers to use new science and build on more than 130 years of past avian pest control studies. With this workshop and a companion [*Supporting Beneficial Birds and Managing Pest Birds*](#) guide, you can learn how to make the most of birds on farms.

Gardening: Where to Start, Where to Finish—Deb Knapke, *GardenComm*

Where do I start? What's next? And where am I going to find the time to work in my garden? Creating gardens is a process that is logical and grounded in understanding plants, soil, and

natural processes, but it is also about time management and setting reasonable expectations for the garden and yourself. Like everything else, gardening starts with dreams. Let's turn your dreams into reality!

Successional Plantings in High Tunnels—Dana Hilfinger, *Central State University*

Succession planting, or planting multiple crops within a bed throughout the year, can help a grower maximize a small space, increase revenue, and ensure a consistent supply of crops. High tunnels or hoop houses can also benefit from successional crop plans, but there are important management and timing considerations to ensure that you are making the most of your valuable tunnel space. Dana Hilfinger will explore crop planning and management techniques that increase year-round high tunnel success and evaluate the economics of different high tunnel crop plans.

Integrating Steel and Ecology for Better Weed Management—Joel Gruver, *Western Illinois University*

This presentation will explore cropping system strategies that enhance the effectiveness of mechanical cultivation through improving crop competitive advantage and soil tilth. Strategies that will be discussed include crop, cover crop and tillage sequencing, in-row and inter-row spacing (including solar corridors), vegetative and bare fallowing, guidance systems, and soil amendments. Examples will be provided from the WIU Organic Research Farm and other organic farms in the Midwest region.

Adding Livestock Guardian Dogs to Your Farm: Things to Know—Keba Hitzeman, *Innisfree on the Stillwater*

Livestock are an investment of time and resources, and depending on your predator load, may require livestock guardian dogs (LGD) for added protection. Keba Hitzeman will address "newbie" questions, giving you more information on whether the purchase of an LGD is right for you. Learn about finding a reputable breeder, training, LGD needs, care and feeding, common LGD breeds, and much more.

Natural Building and Remodeling Home Tour—Nick Leone

Join Nick Leone for a tour of the century farmhouse he and his wife renovated from the studs up in as "green" a manner as they could manage. Get an up-close look at a lived-in natural building project while Nick discusses what worked and what did not.

Diversify Smarter, Not Harder—Alexis Dragovich, *Mud Run Farm*, Chelsea Gandy, *Fox Hollow Farm*

Adding a new and different business to your farm can help protect you from agriculture's uncertainties, but it can also stretch your financial, physical, mental, and emotional resources too thin. Thinking strategically about how you diversify can help ensure that any new business you take on fits your farm, your market, and your lifestyle, while complementing your existing products to add resiliency, rather than leave you just as vulnerable to a bad year as you were before. Alexis Dragovich and Chelsea Gandy will share their experiences adding new businesses and offer key considerations, tips, strategies, and cautionary tales to help you choose your new venture wisely.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 14
Workshop Session VIII: 4:30-5:30 p.m. ET

Land Access: Advocacy Tools You Can Use—Holly Rippon-Butler, *National Young Farmers Coalition*

Access to land directly determines who can succeed in agriculture. Public policy has defined—and continues to shape—how land is used, who owns it, and the way in which it changes hands in the United States. Policy must also be part of the bold, systemic change required to protect our nation's farmland from development, ensure that it remains accessible to those who grow our food, and address inequities of land ownership and access. In this workshop, we will share talking points, findings, and policy recommendations from our new 2020 Land Policy report and action microsite, which explore the deep connection between land and policy and provide a practical set of tools for farmers and advocates engaging with this issue through policy change.

Your Farm Can Cool the Climate—Glenn Gall

Most of us know the Earth is being disrupted by warming and that the culprit is greenhouse gas emissions. Good farm management can reduce carbon dioxide emissions and even sequester carbon. There is also a less understood cooling effect that comes from more vegetative growth, more diversity, longer seasons, and perennial vegetation. Glenn Gall will describe surface and atmospheric cooling and how land managers can cool their land and the planet. Although this workshop will focus on farm-scale solutions, there are also appropriate urban applications of these principles. Get the information you need to help restore a more living and livable planet!

Pesticides Wintering in Your Hives—Michele Colopy, *LEAD for Pollinators*

Michele Colopy of LEAD for Pollinators will outline the pesticide exposure routes for bees and the synergistic effects created by multiple exposures. Learn how we can work to reduce pesticide exposures, and ensure healthier honey bees and native pollinators.

Growing Organic Gourmet Garlic in Midwest Climates—Rod and Jennifer Sharpnack, *Family Roots Farm*

Fifth generation gourmet garlic farmers Jennifer and Rod Sharpnack will share key strategies and techniques for growing high quality organic garlic in Ohio. Get their seasoned insider tips on seed selection, upfront investment and costs, trouble shooting, marketing the products, and value-added offerings.

Soil Health Economics in an Organic System—Jim Hoorman, *Hoorman Soil Health Services*
Profit margins are much higher when input costs are reduced. By adapting four core soil health principles; weed, insect and disease issues can be minimized without additional inputs, leading to improved profit margins and improved profits. Healthy soils also need less inputs for organic fertilizer, irrigation (water), and fuel, labor, and equipment once the organic system becomes stabilized. This presentation will examine the economic benefits from adopting a soil health organic farming system.

Expanding Appalachia Ohio's Artisanal Meat Production—Leslie Schaller, *ACEnet*

The Appalachian Center for Economic Networks (ACEnet) goal for our SARE project has been to increase production of locally sourced, artisanal meat products to meet growing demand from

direct, foodservice wholesale, and institutional buyers in southern and central Ohio. Livestock farmers have increased access to workshops, "hands-on" meat processing trainings, equipment orientations, and marketing and distribution services provided by ACEnet staff and four farmer peers utilizing the ACEnet Food Ventures Center and the Food and Farm Enterprise Center dedicated meat processing room. Learn how taking a more active role in adding value to the meat you raise can improve your business and serve your community.

Achieving Personal Food Sovereignty through Community—Sherry Chen, *Andelain Fields*
Searching for sources of healthy food within the context of the isolated pieces of the local food world can be a daunting task at times. Weaving a personal food web and creating a “food community” around yourself and your family is both a doable and pleasant experience that requires patience and organization, yet generates rewards in quality relationships, quality food, and new information. Join us as we share a historical experience and take a current look at how to grow your own food networks.

Online and Social Media Marketing: Where Do You Belong?—Angela Blatt, *The Ohio State University Institute for Food and AgriCultural Transformation*, Lyndsey and Seth Teter, *Six Buckets Farm*

Is the thought of marketing your products online bacon you crazy? Join hog farmers Lyndsey and Seth Teter and Angela Blatt of InFACT for some tips on how your farm can stand out from the herd! This session will provide an overview of social media and other online marketing platforms; how, when and what to post, and how to create an integrated marketing and communications strategy with best practices to develop an authentic online presence for your farm.