



**Ohio  
Smart  
Agriculture**  
SOLUTIONS FROM THE LAND

## Support for Ohio Smart Agriculture: Solutions from the Land

“I applaud the vision of Ohio's agricultural landscapes as solutions to many of the serious issues impacting agriculture, nutrition and the food system in our state. As public health practitioners throughout our state are committed to the health and well-being of Ohioans, I and my public health colleagues, welcome the opportunity to learn more, explore the pathways outlined in the OSA:SfL Report, partner with others from the food security and health, agricultural, and environmental fields, and support a food system that benefits producers, the public, and the planet.” —*Beth Bickford RN MS, Executive Director, Association of Ohio Health Commissioners*

---

“More resilient working lands, watersheds and communities will allow people and nature to prosper in a changing climate. This report provides important, timely ideas for scaling climate-smart agriculture.” —*Suzy Friedman, Senior Director for Agricultural Sustainability, Environmental Defense Fund*

---

“With the Solutions from the Land initiative, supporting Ohio agriculture and Ohio farmers can provide affordable, high quality local products to our communities. It is discouraging that many Ohio and Columbus communities are still considered ‘food deserts.’ No Ohio citizen should be without access to food, especially when it directly affects their health.” —*Gregory Rutland, President, Merit Rutland, Adult Certified Nurse Practitioner, Gilead Primary Care North* ([Read more...](#))

---

“By bringing together lay experts and academic researchers to envision a future for Ohio's food systems and agriculture economy, you have produced a call to action that contains data-driven recommendations on how consumers and growers can work together to create a future where all Ohioans can thrive. We look forward to collaborating with partners across our region and the state to leverage the short term recommendations into collaborative projects that build meaningful relationships and collective capacity to reshape the systems to be sustainable, healthy, and equitable for all.” —*Michaela W.T. Oldfield, Director, Greater Cincinnati Regional Food Policy Council* ([Read more...](#))

---

“We support the collaborative work of Ohio Smart Agriculture: Solutions from the Land Initiative because it aligns with our mission and values and the work of the Ohio Food Policy Network. We look forward to working with others to utilize the report created by Ohio Smart Agriculture to build a farm, food, and health partners alliance that will create and implement a policy agenda to link food with health.” —*Noreen Warnock, Co-Founder and Director of Advocacy and Community Outreach, Local Matters* ([Read more...](#))

---

“By focusing on reducing hunger and improving nutrition, these broad-based initiatives can help spur economic growth, help improve the environment and reduce healthcare cost and chronic diseases. The pathways developed for Ohio's food system and agricultural economy will create a better environment for producers, consumers, and communities. The Ohio Association of Foodbanks looks forward to working together to ensure this vision is achieved and we are honored to support the work of OSA:SfL.” —*Lisa Hamler-Fugitt, Executive Director, Ohio Association of Foodbanks* ([Read more...](#))

---

“The Ohio Agribusiness Association applauds the vision of Ohio's agricultural landscapes as solutions to many of the serious issues impacting agriculture, nutrition and the food system in our state. We welcome the opportunity to explore pathways outlined in the OSA:SfL Report, partner with others from the agricultural, environmental, food security and health fields, and support a food system that benefits producers, the public, and the planet.” —*Chris Henney, President and CEO, Ohio Agribusiness Association*

---

“The Ohio Aquaculture Association (OAA) congratulates the Ohio Smart Agriculture Steering Committee on the development of an enlightening, visionary initiative that not only identifies challenges and opportunities facing Ohio agriculture in the next 30 years, but also provides pathways and recommendations to strengthen Ohio agriculture, reduce food insecurity, create economic growth, and protect the environment. The OAA looks forward to the future completion of the OSA's work plan.” —*William Lynch, President, Ohio Aquaculture Association* ([Read more...](#))

---

“To build and maintain Ohio’s food and agriculture industry, our top priority should be the adoption of sound, practical measures and programs that contribute to the viability of agriculture in Ohio. We support the OSA:SfL goals of reducing hunger and improving nutrition, creating jobs and generating economic growth, and enhancing the environment and farmers’ bottom lines. Our organizations are committed to improving the lives of Ohio’s farmers for the long-term, and in that spirit, we support the goals outlined in the OSA:SfL report.” —*Tadd Nicholson, Executive Director, Ohio Corn and Wheat; Kirk Merritt, Executive Director, Ohio Soybean Council* ([Read more...](#))

---

“OSA has taken a thoughtful approach to creating well-rounded solutions that can reshape Ohio’s entire food industry to address real problems. We face many environmental challenges from water quality to climate change. These challenges are interconnected to how we manage land and it will take multiple approaches to truly make progress and get Ohio going in the right direction. The OEC looks forward to working with OSA going forward to accomplish our shared goals.” —*Peter Bucher, Water Resources Director, Ohio Environmental Council*

---

“Ohio Farm Bureau is thankful for this diverse group looking at many of the serious issues impacting agriculture, nutrition and the food system in our state and we welcome the opportunity to review their recommendations. We look forward to seeing what this initiative brings to the overall efforts of strengthening Ohio agriculture.” —*Ohio Farm Bureau*

---

“The Ohio Federation of Soil and Water Conservation Districts support many of the recommendations in the Ohio Smart Agriculture Call to Action report: in particular the elements outlined in the proposed water quality strategy, as they reinforce the conservation and education efforts of the district offices and staff. As noted, SWCD’s have a rich history of encouraging early adoption and support of farmers in conservation efforts. Acknowledgements of the one-on-one support SWCD’s have been able to give to farmers, and the opportunities for progress, are greatly appreciated.” —*Janelle Mead, CEO, Ohio Federation of Soil and Water Conservation Districts*

---

“The Ohio Forestry Association, Inc. (OFA) is proud to have been invited to take part in Phase I of the Ohio Smart Agriculture: Solutions from the Land project to develop a vision for the future of agriculture in Ohio. Ohio’s forest industry is a vibrant and vital part of the rural economy of our state and intertwines with other forms of agriculture on several levels... [...] The Ohio Forestry Association, Inc. supports the collaborative work being undertaken here by a very diverse group of interested parties. As the project moves into Phase II, OFA plans to continue partnering with this group to work on the actionable items identified in the report generated from Phase I.” —*Brad Perkins, Executive Director, Ohio Forestry Association, Inc.* ([Read more...](#))

---

“Helping address food insecurity in Ohio and encouraging strong food policy programs have long been a priority for Ohio’s pork and poultry farmers. We also recognize the critical need for workforce development and programs that build a stronger farm-to-food infrastructure. Lastly, we agree that preserving the environment for the future is critical, and our farmer-members already are contributing to solutions to Ohio’s water quality challenges. While we have not reviewed the full report in detail, we are supportive of collaborative efforts that encourage systems-based approaches to assure a robust and stable farm community in Ohio.” —*Bryan Humphreys, Executive Vice President, Ohio Pork Council; Jim Chakeres, Executive Vice President, Ohio Poultry Association*

---

Read the report [HERE](#) or the executive summary [HERE](#).

Our Co-Chairs: **Fred Yoder (614) 530-4510**  
[fredyoder4510@gmail.com](mailto:fredyoder4510@gmail.com)

**Lisa Hamler-Fugitt (614) 271-4803**  
[Lisa@ohiofoodbanks.org](mailto:Lisa@ohiofoodbanks.org)

To learn more, contact SfL President Ernie Shea at (410) 952-0123 or [Eshea@SfLDialogue.net](mailto:Eshea@SfLDialogue.net); OSU Initiative for Food and Agricultural Transformation Executive Director Brian Snyder at (614) 292-9211 or [snyder.1534@osu.edu](mailto:snyder.1534@osu.edu); or OSU Director of Extension Roger Rennekamp at (614) 292-1842 or [rennekamp.3@osu.edu](mailto:rennekamp.3@osu.edu).