Making a Real Difference for Ohio's Local and Organic Food Systems

The Ohio Ecological Food and Farm Association

Promoting and supporting sustainable agriculture since 1979



Photo Credit: Ron and Mary Meyer



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Empowering Farmers Through Education and Networking

OEFFA nurtures Ohio's ecological farmers by providing one-on-one consultation, an apprenticeship program, a Farmer Information Network, workshops and webinars, and summer farm tours which feature Ohio's finest organic and sustainable farms.

In 2012, OEFFA held 12 farm tours, drawing more than 600 attendees. That same year, more than 300 farmers attended webinars organized by OEFFA and the Countryside Conservancy designed to help specialty crop growers scale up production and diversify their markets. In 2013, 170 people attended OEFFA's preconference workshops on food safety and livestock grazing.

Nurturing the Local Food Community

OEFFA organizes Ohio's largest sustainable agriculture conference, featuring nationally-recognized speakers, such as Joel Salatin, a trade show, kids' conference, locally sourced meals, and more than 100 workshops. The 2013 conference hosted more than 1,200 people.

Advocating for Sustainable Farmers and Consumers

Working with our members, in 2012, OEFFA educated consumers about the need for genetically engineered food labeling and participated in a federal lawsuit challenging Monsanto's practice of intimidating farmers for patent infringement. OEFFA advocated for a sustainable Farm Bill that invests in family farmers and conserves our natural resources. OEFFA also worked to protect Ohio's farmland from environmental contamination by advocating for fracking policies that promote the health of Ohioans, protect landowner rights, and give local governments the ability to make choices about fracking in their communities.

Ensuring the Integrity of the Organic Label

OEFFA operates one of the oldest and most respected organic certification programs in the country, ensuring that organic crop and livestock producers meet the highest standards. OEFFA now certifies more than 750 operations throughout the Midwest.

Investing in Sustainable Agriculture

In 2012, OEFFA partnered with a group of socially motivated local investors to launch the OEFFA Investment Fund. The fund makes flexible and affordable capital available to help farmers grow their businesses, expand the supply of local, fresh food, and encourage the expansion of ecological agricultural practices.

Connecting Consumers with Local Farmers

OEFFA's *Good Earth Guide* is an easy-to-use online searchable database of farms and businesses. It includes sources for locally grown vegetables; fruits; honey; dairy products; grass-fed beef, pork, and lamb; free-range chicken and eggs; flour and grains; cut flowers; seed and feed, and more. The list has grown from only a dozen farms in 1990 to more than 400 today.

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