

# Food and Ag in the City

March 2015 Update From Around Ohio



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## Statewide

### -Ohio Local Foods Week

- August 9 – 15, 2015
- Many urban counties planning programs
- Contact Patrice in Toledo or Heather in Canton to participate

### -Ohio Farm to School Conference – 180 participants

### -Ohio Sustainable Farm Tour Series and Small Farm Center at FSR



## Statewide

- Resident instruction faculty on campus incorporating urban agriculture topics into courses (HCS, Knowlton)
- Food Hub Network
- Direct Marketing Team webinars on urban food



# Columbus

## Master Urban Farmer Program

- Graduated second class of 50 participants
- Waiting list of approximately 70
- Expanded to 10 week course
- Toledo and Mansfield plan to offer in 2015-16



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## Columbus

### Master Urban Farmer Graduates (n = 109):

- 46% plan to start a new business or enterprise
- 68% plan to produce more food from existing operations
- 21% plan to increase family income
- 81% plan to produce higher quality or safer food from existing operations
- 98% report very high (76%) or high (22%) increase in knowledge



## Columbus

- Urban Ag Network formed
- Urban Farm Tour Series planned
- Urban Local Food Workshops

(Urban poultry in Mar, urban beekeeping in Apr)

- Urban Ag & Community Gardening Summit
- Planting Seeds and Harvesting Hope
- Developing Columbus Local Foods Guide



## Toledo

- Planning begun for Master Urban Farmer program in 2016
- Working with City of Toledo on hoop-house regs, some interest in pursuing changes to Ohio Rev Code
- Joint planning of Seed Swap Day for 800 gardeners
- Working closely with Northwest Ohio Food Council



## Cleveland

- Staff changes
- Released Local Foods Guide (FPC publication)
- Market Gardener Training Program underway
- Community Garden Training Program underway (Dig-In)
- Started Urban Agriculture Workshop Series
- Completed Youth Gardening Symposium





## Cleveland

- Soliciting applications for urban farmers for Kinsman Incubator Farm
- MGV's planning Garden to Table event



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## Dayton

- Vacant to Vibrant program is developing several urban farm enterprises in partnership with city and several minority communities.
- Working with consortium of universities on developing a food hub
- Partners for the Environment – includes a food team working on urban food projects



## Mansfield

- Urban Ag 101 Workshop (51 participants)
- Planning Master Urban Farmer Workshop in 2016
- MGV's providing leadership for food based community gardens in city



## Canton

- Planning Extension in the City Seminar Series for spring on topics such as urban ag, food waste, food hubs
- Working with four school districts to initiate F2S projects
- Formed a coalition of five new community gardens in Massillon
- Working with Northeast Ohio Local Foods Networking Group, doing a survey and community forum on building connections for local food work in NE Ohio



# OSU Extension is a leader nationally when it comes to urban agriculture.

