

Urban Food Systems Symposium

Developing Urban Food Systems for Sustainable and Resilient Communities

Conference Program

June 11 - 13, 2024 | Columbus, Ohio



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About the Urban Food Systems Symposium

This symposium will bring together a national and international audience of academic, non-profit, government, and research-oriented professionals to share and gain knowledge on how we can build coalitions to adapt to this changing world and how urban food systems contribute to these solutions.

The symposium features topics such as climate change and food waste; food system policy and advocacy; production systems, challenges, and growing in protected environments; involving youth in urban ag; planning, community and economic development; training urban farmers; food distribution systems; nutrition, human health, and food security.

UFSS Organizing Committee Welcomes You

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Land Acknowledgement

We would like to acknowledge the land that The Ohio State University occupies is the ancestral and contemporary territory of the Shawnee, Potawatomi, Delaware, Miami, Peoria, Seneca, Wyandotte, Ojibwe and many other Indigenous peoples. Specifically, the university resides on land ceded in the 1795 Treaty of Greeneville and the forced removal of tribes through the Indian Removal Act of 1830. As a land-grant institution, we want to honor the resiliency of these tribal nations and recognize the historical contexts that have and continues to affect the Indigenous peoples of this land.

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The Ohio State University is committed to building and maintaining a diverse community to reflect human diversity and to improve opportunities for all. The university is committed to equal opportunity, affirmative action, and eliminating discrimination and harassment. This commitment is both a moral imperative consistent with an intellectual community that celebrates individual differences and diversity, as well as a matter of law. Ohio State does not discriminate on the basis of age, ancestry, color, disability, ethnicity, gender, gender identity or expression, genetic information, HIV/AIDS status, military status, national origin, pregnancy, race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, or protected veteran status, or any other bases under the law, in its activities, academic programs, admission, and employment.

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Conference Evaluation

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Symposium At-A-Glance

MONDAY, JUNE 10

3:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Registration | Information Desk & Poster Set-Up

TUESDAY, JUNE 11

7:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Registration

8:30 a.m.

Posters must be in place

8:30 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.

Welcome & Guest Speaker, Dr. Dewayne Goldman

9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

Keynote: Let's Get Dirty – Cultivating Collaboration, Policy, & Resiliency in Cities

Speaker: Qiana Mickie

10:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. | Break

10:30 a.m. – Noon

General Session: The Intersection of Climate Change & Urban Agriculture

Speakers: Trent Ford & Carol Davis

Noon – 1:00 p.m. | Lunch

Welcome to Columbus and Franklin County: John O'Grady, Franklin County Board of Commissioners

1:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Poster Session Lightning Round

1:30 p.m. – 1:45 p.m.

USDA Office of Urban & Agriculture Innovative Production Update

Speakers: Dr. John Patterson & Leslie Glover II

2:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Concurrent Sessions Tracks 1 – 5

3:45 p.m. – 5 p.m.

Poster Session Reception

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 12

6:30 a.m. – Noon

Registration | Information Desk

All Day

Off-Site Educational Tours

Depart Hyatt Valet Area

5:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

Dinner & Tours at Ohio State's Waterman Agricultural & Natural Resources Laboratory

7:30 p.m.

Bus Loop Returns Participants to Hyatt

THURSDAY, JUNE 13

7:30 a.m. – Noon

Registration | Information Desk

8:30 a.m. – 10 a.m.

General Session: Urban Grower Panel

Speakers: Jerry Hebron, Vincent Peterson, and Amanda Stanfield

10:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

Break & Poster Tear Down

10:30 a.m. – Noon

Concurrent Sessions Tracks 6 - 10

Noon – 1:15 p.m. | Lunch & Made in Ohio Drawing

1:15 p.m. – 2:15 p.m.

Capstone: Urban Farmers – A Great Benefit is Coming Our Way: A Mid Tunnel Climate Smart Growing System

Speaker: Rev. Dr. Carl P. Wallace

2:15 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.

Closing Remarks

Keynotes and General Session

Tuesday, June 11

9:00 a.m. | Union Ballroom

Qiana Mickie: Let's Get Dirty – Cultivating Collaboration, Policy, and Resiliency in Cities

Tuesday, June 11

10:30 a.m. | Union Ballroom

Trent Ford and Carol Davis: The Intersection of Climate Change and Urban Agriculture

Thursday, June 13

8:30 a.m. | Union Ballroom

Jerry Hebron, Vincent Peterson, and Amanda Stanfield: Urban Grower Panel

Thursday, June 13

1:15 p.m. | Union Ballroom

Rev. Dr. Carl Wallace: Urban Farmers – A Great Benefit is Coming Our Way: A Mid Tunnel Climate Smart Growing System



Qiana Mickie

Qiana is the first Executive Director of the New York City Mayor's Office of Urban Agriculture. The office leads the city's efforts to increase access to and production of locally grown fresh food, minimize our contributions to climate change, and spur economic activity through agriculture. Under Qiana's leadership, the office aims to advance urban agriculture and equity to actively address climate, health, and food disparities in the city's natural and built environment. For over 12 years, Qiana's work has thrived at the intersection of equity, food systems, environmental justice, and agriculture. Qiana is the former Executive Director of Just Food and often speaks on issues of equitable food/farm policy, and the solidarity economy, locally, and abroad.



Trent Ford

Trent is a climate scientist at the Illinois State Water Survey and University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. He is an expert in hydroclimatology, especially the dynamics and impacts of drought, intense rainfall, and extreme heat. Ford also serves as the Illinois State Climatologist, and leads the state's climate and drought monitoring, provides climate services for stakeholders across Illinois, and works with state and federal agencies to ensure climate-related policies are informed by science. He received his Bachelors in Geography from Illinois State University and master's and Ph.D. in geography from Texas A&M University.



Carol Davis

Carol is the Sustainability Manager for the Town of Blacksburg, Virginia. In this role, she works on a broad range of sustainability issues, including climate mitigation, adaptation, and resiliency planning; alternative transportation; land use policies that advance green building and affordable housing; local and state energy policy; aging in place; water quality; and stewardship of public lands. She enjoys volunteering with the Poverty Creek Trails Coalition and the Montgomery County Dialogue on Race. Carol currently serves on the boards of Sustainable Blacksburg, The New River Land Trust, and the New River Valley Bike Kitchen, the VT Center for Communicating Science, and is an alumni advisor for Alpha Phi Omega, a gender inclusive service fraternity at Virginia Tech.



Jerry Hebron

Jerry is a co-founder of the Detroit Black Farmer Land Fund, a member of the USDA Innovative Production Committee, a member of the state FSA committee, and the Director of the Detroit Cultivator Community Land Trust. For more than a decade, against a backdrop of extreme poverty, the Oakland Avenue Farm has been a stabilizing force in Detroit's historic North End. By growing healthy food, hosting educational programs, creating cultural gathering spaces, and generating jobs, the Farm is achieving its vision for a vibrant civic commons that will continue to benefit the neighborhood for decades to come. The Farm is a workforce development project of North End Christian Community Development Corporation, a 501c3 not-for-profit.



Vincent Peterson

Vincent is President and CEO of VIGEO GARDENS, which stands at the forefront of agricultural innovation. A former biomedical engineering student, Vincent pivoted to pursue a vision in sustainable agriculture, armed with a degree in finance. He co-founded VIGEO GARDENS with a heartfelt goal to provide cancer patients with the healthiest greens possible. This venture, born in a modest basement corner, was not just a business initiative but a pursuit driven by compassion and a commitment to make a tangible difference in the world. With Vincent's leadership, VIGEO GARDENS has blossomed over nine years into a pioneering force in indoor farming, extending its reach across eight states through grocery retail and food service distributors. The company's mission, "to accelerate the world's transition to indoor farming," is rooted in producing non-GMO greens free from harsh pesticides and herbicides, using less water. Vincent's vision extends beyond current success; he aims to build a distributed network of indoor farms to ensure the freshest, highest quality produce is accessible to 90% of the United States population within a 300-mile radius, demonstrating a sustainable model for profitable indoor farming.



Amanda Stanfield

Amanda is the owner/operator of Richland County’s only urban homestead farm. The GrowFourth Urban Farm is in Mansfield, Ohio. The farm grows in high tunnels as well as outdoor raised beds, and food is “naturally grown,” following organic practices, but is not certified organic. Amanda holds a degree in Sustainable Food and Farming from UMass Amherst.



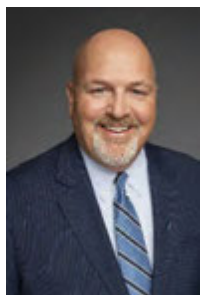
Rev. Dr. Carl P. Wallace

Rev. Dr. Wallace is currently the chief operating officer of Abundant Life Farm, a non-profit entity whose mission is “teaching how to love our earth through agricultural innovation and conservation.” He and his wife are affectionately known as “The Farmer and The Del.” Dr. Wallace is serving as one of the inaugural 12 federal advisors to the Secretary of Agriculture for Urban and Innovative Agriculture Committee. The committee will provide input on policy development and assist in identifying barriers to urban agriculture and innovative production. He has served as a consultant for the non-profit International Institute of Akron that “welcomes new Americans and helps them make our community their home.” He most recently served as the Interim chief diversity officer for the University of Akron and the senior pastor of Trinity United Church of Christ in Akron, Ohio.

Guest Speakers



Dr. Dewayne Goldmon
Senior Advisor for Racial
Equity to the U.S. Secretary
of Agriculture



John O’Grady
Franklin County
Commissioner



Dr. John Patterson
USDA Farm
Service Agency



Leslie Glover II
USDA Office of Urban Ag
& Innovative Production

Program Schedule

MONDAY, JUNE 10

3:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Registration | Information Desk & Poster Set-Up - Hyatt Regency Union Ballroom Hallway

TUESDAY, JUNE 11

7:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Registration | Information Desk – Hyatt Regency Union Ballroom Hallway

8:30 a.m.

Posters must be in place

8:30 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.

Welcome: Mike Hogan

Guest Speaker Dr. Dewayne Goldmon, Senior Advisor for Racial Equity to the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture

Moderator: Jared Grant

9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

Keynote Presentation: Let's Get Dirty – Cultivating Collaboration, Policy, and Resiliency in Cities
Qiana Mickie will share her experience and examples of advancing urban agriculture in New York City and how we can all work together to build a climate resilient future.

Moderator: Fernanda Krupek

10:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. | Break

10:30 a.m. – Noon

General Session: The Intersection of Climate Change and Urban Agriculture

Moderator: Aaron Wilson

Climate Change and Urban Agriculture: From Impacts to Solutions

Trent Ford will share his thoughts about how urban agriculture is a vital part of climate adaptation in the Midwest, and how our changing climate has already had significant impacts on urban agriculture, and the severity of impacts could increase with expected changes in the near future. Trent will discuss the fundamentals of climate change in the Midwest, impacts now and into the future, and solutions to develop climate-resilient urban agriculture in an overall healthier and more equitable Midwest region.

10:30 a.m. – Noon | Continued

General Session: The Intersection of Climate Change and Urban Agriculture

Moderator: Aaron Wilson

Planning for Food System Resilience in a Changing Climate: A Local Government Approach

Carol Davis will examine how planning for climate adaptation and resilience at the local government level usually focuses on how to protect people and the built environment from anticipated changes to temperature and precipitation. Some communities like Blacksburg, Virginia are looking beyond these direct impacts to consider how to plan for a sustainable and equitable food system in the context of a changing climate. Carol will focus on an ongoing collaboration between the Town of Blacksburg and the Virginia Tech Center for Food Systems and Community Transformation as they jointly delve into the complexity of food resiliency planning within the Appalachian region.

Noon – 1:00 p.m. | Lunch

Welcome to Columbus and Franklin County: John O’Grady, Franklin County Board of Commissioners

Moderator: Mike Hogan

1:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Poster Session Lightning Round

Moderators: Logan Minter and Gigi Neal

These top-ranked posters will be shared by their authors in 5-minute lightning round style.

Assessing the Role of U.S. Urban Forests on Food and Nutritional Access Under Climate Change

Alessandro Ossola and Pooja Singh – University of California Davis

Lessons from One Year of Food Policy Council Activity in Flint and Genesee County, Michigan

Kelly McClelland, Michigan State University Extension; Samantha Farah – Crim Fitness Foundation; Athena McKay – Flint Innovation Solutions; Tony Vu – Flint Social Club

At-Risk for Food Insecurity: Developing a Locally-Relevant Measure

Laura Vollmer and Lucy Diekman – University of California Cooperative Extension; Cassandra Nguyen – University of California Davis

Amaranth Greens as a Model for Nutrient-Dense, Culturally Preferred Produce in an Urban Setting

Tori Rosen, Dr. Ramu Govindasamy, Dr. Albert Ayeni, and Dr. Jim Simon – Rutgers University

1:30 p.m. – 1:45 p.m.

USDA Office of Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production - A Brief Overview

Dr. John Patterson, State Executive Director of the USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) in Ohio

Leslie Glover II, Program Manager, USDA Office of Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production

2:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Concurrent Sessions Tracks 1 – 5

Track 1 – Climate Change and Food Waste | Union A
Moderator: Jim Jasinski

- 2:00 p.m.** Improving Drought Resilience for Urban Farms
Lucy Diekmann – University of California
- 2:20 p.m.** Utilizing Black Soldier Fly Composting on Urban Farms
Milena Agila, Laura Ingwell – Purdue University
- 2:40 p.m.** Development of an Urban Biomass Waste Circular Economy - Toolkit Perspective
Claire O’Dea, Angie Sillah, Brianna Fogel – University of Michigan
- 3:00 p.m.** Developing Produce Safety Educational Resources for Refugee Growers in Urban Areas in the Midwest
Manreet Bhullar, Sagar Pokhrel – Kansas State University; Shannon Coleman – Iowa State University; Londa Nwadike – Kansas State University/University of Missouri; Angelina Adjetey; Smaranda Andrews; Djemima Mulonda; Melissa Cater
- 3:20 p.m.** Q&A with the Presenters

Track 2 – Food System Policy and Advocacy | Franklin D
Moderator: Tricia Jenkins

- 2:00 p.m.** Urban Farmers and Public Policy: A Fellowship Program
Patricia Allen – BIPOC Food & Farm Network; Tracy Freeman – Inspiring Outcomes
- 2:20 p.m.** Childcare and Health Insurance: Invisible Issues Affecting Your Farm
Hannah Budge, Shoshanah Inwood – The Ohio State University; Florence Becot – Penn State University; Beth Holtzman – University of Vermont; Maria Pippidis – University of Delaware; Joy Rumble – The Ohio State University, Julia Freedgood – American Farmland Trust
- 2:40 p.m.** The Zoo City Farm and Food Network: Food Sovereignty Initiatives and Cooperative Extension
Remi Harrington – The Zoo City Farm and Food Network; Mariel Borgman – Michigan State University
- 3:00 p.m.** Urban Land for Growing Food: Policy Change as a Community Co-Learning Process
Kara Komoto – Twin Cities Community Agricultural Land Trust (TCALT), Valentine Cadieux – TCALT and Hamline University; Jennifer Nicklay – TCALT and University of Minnesota; Stephen Carpenter – Farmers’ Legal Action Group; Sebrum Herron, University of Minnesota
- 3:20 p.m.** Q&A with the Presenters

Track 3 - Production Systems, Challenges, and Growing in Protected Environments | Franklin C
Moderator: Walt Bonham

- 2:00 p.m.** Significant Urban Farm Resources Developed by the Great Lakes Urban Ag Working Group
Maggie Rivera – Ohio State University Extension, Cuyahoga; Laura Ingwell – Purdue University; James Jasinski – The Ohio State University; Jacqueline Kowalski – University of Connecticut
- 2:20 p.m.** Overcoming AI Model Training Barriers Toward Autonomous Controlled Environment Agriculture System
Shing Chang, Michael Prichard, Xiaolong Guo – Kansas State University; Lizhi Wang – Oklahoma State University
- 2:40 p.m.** Comparison of Liquid Culture and Substrate-Based Hydroponic Systems for Organic Lettuce Production
Milon Chowdhury, Uttara Samarakoon – The Ohio State University, Agricultural Technical Institute; James E. Altland – USDA Agricultural Research Service
- 3:00 p.m.** Sustainable Pest Management for New York Urban Farmers
Lori Koenick, Sam Anderson, Judson Reid – Cornell Cooperative Extension
- 3:20 p.m.** Q&A with the Presenters

Track 4 – Involving Youth in Urban Ag | Franklin B
Moderator: Fernanda Krupek

- 2:00 p.m.** Youth in Charge: Yard Corps Sprouts into Performance Arts, Catering, Farmers Markets, and More
Thomas Crain – Shanti Community Farms, Inc.; David Brooks – 36 North Consulting, Kyengye Elale – Shine the Light; Bhakta Rizal – Shanti Community Farms, Inc.
- 2:20 p.m.** Benefits of Engaging Students and Staff in the Evaluation in Seattle Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program
Gurdeep Gill – City of Seattle, Office of Sustainability and Environment
- 2:40 p.m.** Growing Teachers Throughout the Seasons: Agriculture Awareness Through Nine School-Year Harvests
Timothy McDermott, Carol Smathers, Jamie Rickle – The Ohio State University
- 3:00 p.m.** Confidence, Sense of Belonging, and Connection to Nature in a Youth Urban Agriculture Program
Casey Ortbahn, Marijke Hecht, Kristi Lekies – The Ohio State University; Michele Bailey – Franklin Park Conservatory and Botanical Gardens
- 3:20 p.m.** Q&A with the Presenters

Track 5 – Planning, Community, and Economic Development | Franklin A

Moderator: Jared Grant

- 2:00 p.m.** Milwaukee Farmers Markets: Data Collection and Networking
Kristin Krokowski – University of Wisconsin Madison
- 2:20 p.m.** Kansas Local Food Systems Community Roundtables: Developing Sustainable Urban Food Systems
Amanda Lindahl, Rebecca McMahon, Deborah Kohl, Londa Nwadike, Elizabeth Kiss, Rial Carver – Kansas State University
- 2:40 p.m.** Exploring the Needs of Indiana Urban Farmers: A Mixed-Methods Needs Assessment
Nathan Shoaf, Laura Ingwell – Purdue University
- 3:00 p.m.** Supporting Food Truck Entrepreneurs: Ways Academics Can Contribute to This Growing Sector
Kendra Wills – Michigan State University
- 3:20 p.m.** Q&A with the Presenters

3:45 – 5 p.m.

Poster Session Reception | Hosted by The Ohio State University

Attend the Poster Session Reception and interact with the authors of more than 30 posters. A complete list of all posters begins on page 16. Complimentary heavy hors d'oeuvres and cash bar.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 12

6:30 a.m. – Noon

Registration | Information Desk & Poster Set-Up - Hyatt Regency Union Ballroom Hallway

All Day | Off-Site Educational Tours

Departures from the Hyatt Regency Valet Area

The 2024 Urban Food Systems Symposium includes a variety of tours featuring Ohio's urban food system communities. Pre-registration was required for tour participation. All participants will come together for dinner and tours at Waterman Farm on Ohio State's Columbus campus. Those not on tours can catch a shuttle bus from the Hyatt Regency to Waterman around 5 p.m.

- Tour #1 – School Gardens of Central Ohio (7 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.)
- Tour #2 – Community Gardens of Columbus (1 – 5 p.m.)
- Tour #3 – Urban Farms and Kitchen Incubator in Cleveland (8 a.m. – 5 p.m.)
- Tour #4 – Urban Farms of Columbus (7:30 a.m. – 5 p.m.)
- Tour #6 – Urban Farms and Aggregation in Akron and Mansfield (8 a.m. – 5 p.m.)

5:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

Dinner and Tours at Ohio State's Waterman Agricultural & Natural Resources Laboratory

Welcome to Ohio State and CFAES

Overview of Waterman – Dewey Mann, Director of Waterman Agricultural and Natural Resources Laboratory

Open House tours of research and educational projects at Waterman.

Waterman has been a priceless educational resource for almost 100 years. This unique 261-acre university facility provides opportunities in teaching, research, and community engagement. The evening includes a welcome from special guests, a delicious dinner from City Barbeque, and tours of the Controlled Environment Agriculture Research Complex (CEARC), and other research and education projects. This event is included with Symposium registration.

7:30 p.m.

Bus Loop Returns Participants to Hyatt

THURSDAY, JUNE 13

7:30 a.m. – Noon

Registration | Information Desk - Hyatt Regency Union Ballroom Hallway

8:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

Announcements and Introductions: Jeff Hattey

General Session: Urban Grower Panel

Moderator: Walt Bonham – Urban farmer, founder of The Food Lab, and founding member of the Richland Gro-Op

Speakers: Jerry Hebron, Vincent Peterson, and Amanda Stanfield

This urban grower panel will engage in a discussion about the challenges they face as urban producers; the type of research, education, and support needed by entry-level, intermediate, and experienced farmers; and the skills they have developed along the way. After learning about each of the growers, the panel will be asked a few introductory questions and then the discussion will be widened to allow audience interaction.

10:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. | Break

10:30 a.m. – Noon

Concurrent Sessions Tracks 6 – 10

Track 6 – Planning, Community, and Economic Development | Franklin A
Moderator: Walt Bonham

- 10:30 a.m.** Developing a Comprehensive Urban Agriculture Plan for Dallas, Texas
Jeffrey Landau, Christian Kanlian – Agriculture
- 10:50 a.m.** Farmers Markets in Municipal Planning and Policy – Protected or Neglected, and to What Effect?
Amanda Edmonds – Wageningen University
- 11:10 a.m.** Urban Farmland Tenure and Policy Models: Opportunities, Barriers, and Ways Forward for Securing Land
Andrea Edmonds – Wageningen University
- 11:30 a.m.** Exploring the Use of Land Evaluation and Site Assessment (LESA) for Urban and Peri-Urban Agriculture
John Jones – Virginia Commonwealth University; Jeff Everett – Rutgers University
- 11:50 a.m.** Q&A with the Presenters

Track 7 – Training Urban Farmers | Franklin B
Moderator: Nathan Shoaf

- 10:30 a.m.** Starting a Sustainable Vegetable Farm: Online Education for Beginning Specialty Crop Growers
Tricia Jenkins, Claire Barnhart, Eleni Pliakoni, Cary Rivard – Kansas State University
- 10:50 a.m.** Urban Gardening for Building Capacity, Household Food Security, and Reducing Greenhouse Gas Emission
Lila Karki, Prem Bhandari – University of Maryland Eastern Shore
- 11:10 a.m.** Capacity Building in Urban Food Systems Through Professional Development
Cary Rivard, Tricia Jenkins, Jeremy Cowan, Eleni Pliakoni – Kansas State University
- 11:30 a.m.** Specialty Crop Manager Pilot Training Program to Meet the Demand for Agricultural Managers
Michelle Wallace – Central State University Extension; Walt Bonham, North End Community Improvement Collaborative
- 11:50 a.m.** Q&A with the Presenters

Track 8 – Training Urban Farmers | Franklin C
Moderator: Manreet Bhullar

- 10:30 a.m.** Growing Food, Community, and Climate Resilience with Urban Food Forests and Community Gardens
Linda Appel Lipsius – Denver Urban Gardens; Jolon Clark – Denver Parks & Recreation; Ashley Williamson – The Giving Grove; Creighton Hofeditz – Denver Urban Garden
- 10:50 a.m.** NEW Food Access Map: Accessing Local Food Sources
Patrick Nehring – University of Wisconsin-Madison Extension
- 11:10 a.m.** Using Neighborhood Grocery Stores Within Food Apartheid to Change the Existing Charity Narrative
Tom Phillips – StarkFresh
- 11:30 a.m.** Farm to School Racial and Social Equity: Investing in Historically Underserved Producers
Jessica Guffey Calkins – University of Wisconsin-Madison Extension
- 11:50 a.m.** Q&A with the Presenter

Track 9 – Nutrition, Human Health, and Food Security | Franklin D
Moderator: Denise Ellsworth

- 10:30 a.m.** Mental Health Training Builds Resilience in Community Garden Programs
Whitney Elmore – University of Florida
- 10:50 a.m.** Utilizing a Food Insecurity Index to Promote Food Access in the Greater Trenton Area of New Jersey
Joan Healy – Rutgers Cooperative Extension
- 11:10 a.m.** Using Gardens and Produce to Reach All Communities in Our County
Nanette Neal, Margaret Jenkins, Kelly Royalty, Becky Fiscus, Meghan Bursall, Deborah Garner – The Ohio State University
- 11:30 a.m.** PLAZA Mobile Produce Market: Connecting Urban Farmers to Less Resourced Communities
Jennifer Parlin – University of Arizona; Kelly Royalty – The Ohio State University
- 11:50 a.m.** Q&A with the Presenters

Track 10 – Production Systems, Challenges, and Protected Environments | Union A

Moderator: Maggie Rivera

- 10:30 a.m.** A Collaborative Multi-Disciplinary Design Studio Exploring Urban Building-Integrated Agriculture
Gwynne Mhuireach – University of Oregon
- 10:50 a.m.** Improving Soil Health Using Beneficial Microbiomes in Urban Agriculture
Yejin Son – Cornell University
- 11:10 a.m.** Shallow Geothermal Earth-to-Air Heat Exchange: Cooling and Heating for Sustainable Season Extension
Jaden Tatum, Tim McDermott, Ajay Shah – The Ohio State University
- 11:30 a.m.** Pest Communities on High Tunnel Crops on Urban vs. Rural Farms and Effective Options for Management
Samantha Willden, Allison Zablach, Laura Ingwell – Purdue University
- 11:50 a.m.** Q&A with the Presenters
-

Noon – 1:15 p.m. | Lunch and Made in Ohio Drawing

Moderators: Julie Wayman & Leeoria Willis-Burritt

1:15 p.m. – 2:15 p.m.

Capstone Presentation: Urban Farmers – A Great Benefit is Coming Our Way: A Mid Tunnel Climate Smart Growing System

Speaker: Rev. Dr. Carl P. Wallace

Moderator: Jeff Hattey

How would you like to grow tomatoes in a seasonal high tunnel (hoop house) in the middle of a cold winter? A possible solution is coming your way. Through an Ohio State University Department of Food, Agricultural, and Biological Engineering capstone project students, TJ Rouse, Kate Humphrey, Jaret Boetcher, and Alyssa Smith, under the leadership of Professor Jane Fife, are creating a Mid Tunnel Climate Smart Growing System that will provide a cost-efficient heating and lighting system to extend the growing season to 365 days a year in a hoop house.

2:15 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. | Closing Remarks

Moderators: Mike Hogan and Jeff Hattey

Featured Posters | Lightning Sessions

Note: Poster number appears in parenthesis.

Assessing the Role of U.S. Urban Forests on Food and Nutritional Access Under Climate Change (1)

Alessandro Ossola and Pooja Singh – University of California Davis

Lessons from One Year of Food Policy Council Activity in Flint & Genesee County, Michigan (2)

Kelly McClelland – Michigan State University Extension; Samantha Farah – Crim Fitness Foundation; Athena McKay – Flint Innovative Solutions; Tony Vu – Flint Social Club

At-Risk for Food Insecurity: Developing a Locally-Relevant Measure (3)

Laura Vollmer and Lucy Diekmann – University of California Cooperative Extension; Cassandra Nguyen – University of California, Davis

Amaranth Greens as a Model for Nutrient-Dense, Culturally Preferred Produce in an Urban Setting (4)

Tori Rosen, Dr. Ramu Govindasamy, Dr. Albert Ayeni, and Dr. Jim Simon – Rutgers University

Climate Change and Food Waste Posters

Impact of Regenerative Agriculture on Mitigation Salt Stress in Tomato Cultivars Within Urban Miami (5)

Luis Cendan and Dr. Amir Khoddamzadeh – Florida International University

Role of UPA in Climate Change: A Review of GHG Emissions and Carbon Sequestration Methods (6)

Abdulhakeem Al-Qubati – UNU-FLORES

Food System Policy and Advocacy Posters

Mapping Support for Urban Agriculture in California (7)

Jennifer Pihlak – Cal Poly Pomona

Increasing Local Food Consumption in K-12 Schools in South Dakota (8)

Blake Pulse – South Dakota State University

Innovative Urban Ag Curriculum and Federal Partnership; Bridging Gaps, Building Community (9)

Kyle Karnuta, Judson Reid, and Victoria Giarratano – Cornell Cooperative Extension

Improving Information Access via Prototype Design with Memphis Food Providers and Community Members (10)

Angelica Carey – Innovate Memphis

Urban Agriculture Incentive Zones: Assessing the Viability of California's AB551 (11)

Belinda Ramírez – Stanford University

Production Systems, Challenges, and Growing in Protected Environments Posters

NURTURE KG - Navigating Urban Resilience Through Urban Food Ecosystems Using Knowledge Graphs (12)

Aryan Dalal and Handey Küçük McGinty - Kansas State University-Manhattan; Majid Jaberi-Douraki & Eleni Pliakoni – Kansas State University-Olathe

Shredded Cardboard Mulch Reduces Weed Pressure and Irrigation Needs for Twin Cities Urban Gardens (13)

Morgan Smith – University of Minnesota

Involving Youth in Urban Ag Posters

Minority Youth Perspectives on Sustainable Agriculture Through Experiential Learning Opportunities (14)

Charles Carpenter and Jeremy Cowan – Kansas State University

Youth Cultivating Change with the Food Literacy Project in Louisville, Kentucky (15)

Grace Mican, Leticia Campbell, Gabriella Hohman & Youth Community Agriculture Program Crew Member – The Food Literacy Project

Planning, Community, and Economic Development Posters

Ag in the Community (16)

Nanette Neal and Trevor Corboy – The Ohio State University

Urban Metabolism of ASEAN Night Markets Based on Biological Principles (17)

Maria Villaseca – The Ohio State University

Cut-and-Come-Again Lettuce Production: Lessons Learned from Research in Urban Production Systems (18)

Leigh Whittinghill – Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station; Christine Jackson – UF/IFAS Extension; Pradip Poudel – Pennsylvania State University

Harmonizing New Jersey Preservation Policies for Conservation Community Development (19)

Alex Rivera – Kean University; Meredith Taylor – Rutgers University; Jeff Everett - Rutgers University

Exploring the Relationships Between Built Environment and Food Accessibility in a Large Metro Area (20)

Shahadat Hossain and Dr. Shakil Kashem – Kansas State University

Southern Nevada Agricultural Roundtable: Building the Movement (21)

Kaley Chapin, Carolina Martinez, and Staci Emm – University of Nevada, Reno

Training Urban Farmers Posters

Developing the Bearcat Pantry and Resource Center Urban Garden at the University of Cincinnati (22)

Joy Kostansek – University of Cincinnati; Brian Grubb

Food Distribution Systems Posters

Urban University Food System Roles and Reflections (23)

Julie Fox – The Ohio State University

Local Procurement Guides Informed by an Early Care Coalition and a Multi-Season Purchasing Pilot (24)

Ali Segna, Robin Peth-Pierce – The Ohio State University

Nutrition, Human Health, and Food Security Posters

WIC Perks: 5 Years of Incentivizing WIC Farmers' Market Nutrition Program through Extension (25)

Amanda Osborne – The Ohio State University

Expanding Access to Locally Grown Produce for Recipients of Nutrition Benefits (26)

Suzanne Saggese – The Ohio State University; Amy Abodeely – Toledo-Lucas County Health Department

Safely Growing in Mildly Lead Contaminated Urban Soils – Case Studies from Kansas City, Missouri (27)

Chandima Wekumbura Wekumbure Gedara, Dr. Ganga Hettiarachchi, & Jack Murphy – Kansas State University

Utilization of Community Gardens During and Since COVID-19 Among Underserved Communities in Rockford (28)

Ravneet Kaur – University of Illinois, College of Medicine Rockford; Carol Erikson – University of Illinois Extension; Kristine Zimmermann; Shannon Layng; Vicki Weidenbacher-Hoper; Mathew Dalstrom; Manorama Khare

Development of Resilient Urban Food Systems that Ensure Food Security in the Face of Climate Change (29)

Eleni Pliakoni, Cary Rivard, Tricia Jenkins, and Ganga Hettiarachchi – Kansas State University; Logan Britton, Agricultural Economics; Sara Hadavi, Landscape Architecture and Regional & Community Planning; Majid Jaber-Douraki, Mathematics; Tania Kim, Entomology; Hande McGinty, Computer Science; Parthap Parameswaran, Civil Engineering; Manreet Bhu

The Hudson County Produce Prescription and Food Pharmacy Initiative (30)

Delma Yorimoto – Rutgers

Exploring Food Insecurity in Historically Redlined Areas: A Case from Kansas City, Missouri (31)

Sara Hadavi – Kansas State University; Paden Crews – Confluence

Rutgers SNAP Gap Project: Community Based Participatory Research on SNAP Enrollment (32)

Jennifer Taylor, Veronica Jones, Ricardo Kairios – Rutgers Cooperative Extension

Production Systems, Challenges, and Protected Environments Posters

Exploring Nutrient Solution Management Techniques in Hydroponic Production (33)

Puja Subedi and Dr. Teng Yang – Kansas State University Olathe

The Ripple Effects of Community Gardens (34)

Patrick Nehring – University of Wisconsin-Madison Extension Brown & Kewaunee Counties

Enhancing Microbial Safety of Hydroponic Systems with the Use of Ultraviolet Irradiation (35)

Manreet Bhullar, Markanna Moore, Eleni Pliakoni, and Teng Yang – Kansas State University

Strengthening Community Capacity and Increasing Access to Healthy Food in Springfield, Illinois (36)

Yves Doumen – Motherland Gardens Community Project



Stop by the Ohio State Welcome Pavilion at the 2024 Urban Food Systems Symposium

During the 2024 Urban Food Systems Symposium, Ohio State engages as one university with other urban food system scholars and community leaders. The pavilion features faculty, staff, and students from various colleges and centers, who engage with communities through education, research, and Extension. As a model 21st-century public, land grant, research, urban, community-engaged institution, Ohio State is uniquely positioned to make powerful and lasting contributions with urban food systems. A few examples from pavilion sponsors demonstrate the university's commitment to urban food systems and a spirit of collaboration.

The Ohio State College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences (CFAES)

serves as the cornerstone college of the university and the primary host for the symposium. CFAES engages with people across the lifespan, with 11 academic units, 88 county Extension offices, 11 research stations, \$59 million in research expenditures, 33,000 volunteers, diverse partners, and more than 10,000 acres across the Columbus, Wooster, and statewide campus. With urban food systems, Ohio State professionals collaborate to address production, management, policy, water, waste, and other critical dimensions.

Ohio State's College of Public Health is ranked first in Ohio, 16th nationwide among public institutions, and 29th overall by U.S. News and World Report. The College consists of five Divisions: Biostatistics, Environmental Health Sciences, Epidemiology, Health Behavior/Health Promotion, and Health Services Management and Policy. The College is a research-intensive unit and offers the BSPH, MPH, MS, and PhD academic degrees across multiple specializations. The College is fully accredited by the Council on Education for Public Health.

Office of Outreach and Engagement (O&E) – Engagement involves solving societal challenges through meaningful partnerships between faculty, staff, students, and the people and institutions of Ohio, the nation, and the world. The University Libraries' Knowledge Bank catalogs years of engaged scholarship related to urban food systems.

Ohio State Urban Food System Scholarship The pavilion highlights stories of Ohio's urban food community, 360-degree videos of Ohio's urban producers, and other Ohio State urban food system integrated teaching, research, and Extension.



Jill Clark, from the John Glenn College of Public Affairs, provides local, state, national, and international food policy leadership.



Kareem Usher, from City and Regional Planning at the Knowlton School of Architecture, focuses on urban food systems through community-engaged scholarship at the intersection of food access, social justice, regional governance, and community.



Chieri Kubota, from CFAES, serves as Director of Ohio Controlled Environment Agriculture Center – a 48,989 sq. ft. facility that provides a platform for interdisciplinary research at the nexus of horticulture, engineering, entomology, pathology, food science, computer science, and human nutrition/health.

Acknowledgements

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See you in Kansas City - Fall 2026!

