



12.5.24
agenda

Welcome / Announcements

Revisit Network Goals &
Strategies

OEFFA Conference Plans

Open Discussion on
Programming

NETWORK GOALS

- Share resources (grant funding, ongoing studies seeking participants, etc.)
- Create partnerships to ensure solid organic research...
- Share results of organic research to a wider audience...
- Develop farmer-led research questions
- Form working groups
- Facilitate coordinated on-farm trials
- Organic research agenda for Ohio
- Make it easier to access past research
- Compensate participating farmers



What Can this Network Do...



Let's hear from you....

Lindsay K - Could the network create peer-to-peer farming support. Possible TOPP program and current grant can support this.

Janell B: Workshop facilitation and focus has improved since first one. Could still benefit from better & quicker follow up. Share idea notes and contact info within a week.

Lindsay K - Has provided good networking with others. Grant opportunity info. Help with grant proposals, connecting to university researchers.

Emboldened me to seek funding. These are things I'm doing anyway, just more shareable data now.

More farmer participation would be good. Stipend helped motivate me to participate.

Matt F - Newsletter has helped. Good reminder and regular connections.

Warner grant helped subsidize risk of experimentation.

Connect to researchers - maybe an index would be helpful.

Agree more farmer participation would be good. Timing is difficult during growing season. It's so weather dependent, will always be a challenge.

Carl S - Suggest connecting to beginning farmer groups and others to promote recordings. Group has been encouraging for him.

Eli D - Try to present on-farm research as a way to improve profitability. Variety trials and other research does provide a means to that.

Matt K - Time and access to look at previous research on a topic before meeting.

What should a reinvestment in this network focus on?



Let's hear from you....

Staff time for logistics
(Janell B)

Connect with other organizations that already provide these services. (Denise NB)

(Michelle W) Grants are a lot of work and not guaranteed. Be realistic and plan to do the work with or without funding. Ask for help.
Michael Fields Agricultural Institute another group to look at. Free feedback on proposals.

Matt K: Research means different things to different people.
Same issues for farmers as “professional” researchers. Farmers are inherently researchers. Focus on big steps of research.

Denise NB: We have this (PICO / QUEST materials). How to better share it. Maybe use it as an initial interface or to share ideas with others.

Better match-making between researchers. A simple spreadsheet about people's interests. (Lindsay)

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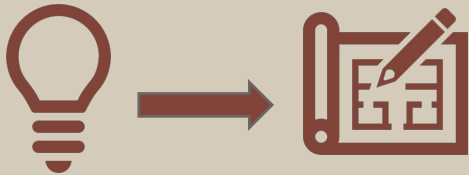
Research Ideas to Move Forward

OEFFFA Conference 2025

**A.M. Research
Question Generation**



**P.M. Project
Development**



**Project ideas YOU would like to talk
about or lead in the afternoon:**

Jannell is very interested in the **home-grown mushroom spawn** project proposed at Southern Ohio Forest Farming Conference

Lindsay (with Henry Pellar) **living mulches for cucurbits**, esp. watermelon. Termination methods for our region based on previous research elsewhere.

Eli: **High population corn. Flame cultivator** follow ups.

Carl: **Spotted lanternfly** (in northern counties already, probably heading to other counties.)

Friends with Benefit (**companion plantings**- does it really work?)
Open field or HT. Donnee and Carl interested.

Lindsay: **Variety trialing, participatory breeding work** focused on regional/climate adaptation.

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Review USDA OREI Grant Goals

Network Goal # 1

- Host five in-person workshops.

Your Turn

Ideas for workshop sites?
Continue into future?
Improvements for these events?
...or event follow up?



▪ Year One Progress

- Black Farming Conference
- Ohio State Organic Grains Conference
- OEFFA Conference
- Ohio Southern Forest Farming Conference
- Ohio State Beekeepers Association Meeting

Network Goal #2

- Continue virtual meeting series



- Year One Progress
 - Worth continuing?
 - Better promotion of videos?

Your Turn

Future session speakers or topics?
Volunteers?

Your Turn

What are we likely to miss?

Network Goal #3

- Produce an Ohio organic research agenda to guide farmer experimentation, institutional resource investments, and future grant proposals



- Year One Progress
 - Workshops and meeting discussion notes.
 - Group survey.
 - How and where to publish?

Network Goal #4

- Build trust, a common vision, and concrete plans for OOFRN in future through quarterly planning meetings.




- Year One Progress...
 - Plan to work on this year 2.
 - Need to improve facilitator communications after workshops.
Time/staff investment.

Your Turn

Quarterly – too frequently?
Meeting topics and tasks?
Form a core group?

Network Goal #5

- At least 3 grants proposals or working groups.

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- Year One Progress
 - 4 Warner grant proposals
 - 1 OREI resubmission
 - SARE and OFRF proposals??

Your Turn

Advanced timing needed?
Specific working group topics
we'd like to see carried
forward?

Network Goal #6

- At least 5 relevant co-created educational resources or events



- Mid-term Progress...
 - Grant list and other workshop handouts
 - Membership Directory
 - Grant development support event
 - Farm Tours with a Research Focus
 - Other resources, services

Your Turn

- broad appeal
- critically needed
- not replicated available material

Farmer Leadership & Compensation

A **Farmer Leader** receives a \$100 stipend (in addition to the participation stipend that all participants are eligible to receive) and is expected to:

- Promote and personally invite other farmers to attend OOFRN events.
- Take part in relevant workshop event(s).
- Participate in group quarterly reflection and planning meetings to discuss promising topics, tactics, and supporting speakers, events, or materials.

A **Farmer Leader Extraordinaire** also does one of these:

- facilitates an in-person workshop small group. (+\$100)
- is a monthly speaker for our research meeting. (+\$100)

The **Farmer Leader Superstar** also

- provides leadership for a working group on a promising research topic towards a proposal. (Looking for candidates)

Do Your Paperwork!!

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Open Discussion

Additional Comments



Timing of Meetings

Difficult due to nature of farming (seasonal, weather-dependent)
Will always be hit or miss.



Resources to Develop or Share

Working Group Help vs. Individual Help

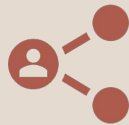


Summer Farm Tours

Other Ideas to Elevate Current / Recent Research



Other:



Directory of Network Members

Still an item of interest.
List academic and farm leaders interested in the group.



Better follow up after DIY Workshops

Other:

Additional Comments

Next Meeting January 2

Resolve to catch up on
watching our YouTube videos.

https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLEg77ceOQ6Nra5jU7PNBDzSFM_5_qlf9E

