



4.4.24  
agenda

Welcome / Announcements

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Revisit December Ideas

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Review Midway Grant  
Achievements

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Open Discussion

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# NETWORK GOALS

- Share resources such as 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



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## Group Suggestions

Connect with other states and Midwest or national organizations

Attend regular farmer meetings to share grant information and answer questions. Get the word out in shorter time frames.

# December Ideas to Revisit

- Use monthly meetings to review recent scholarly research on a specific topic.
  - Membership directory / “dating app” for researchers
  - Regular SHORT communications to share grants, participatory research projects, results, partnerships, etc.
  - Use farmers in network to review researchers’ grants for utility, practicality.
  - Go to farmers' markets to meet and talk to farmers.
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The background features a light grey base with large, overlapping organic shapes in muted green and brown. In the top left, there are stylized, light grey foliage patterns. A white line with a wavy, organic path curves across the bottom right of the image.

# Review USDA OREI Grant Goals

# Network Goal # 1

- Host five in-person workshops.



- Mid-term Progress...
  - Original grant audience included Plain Community and organic dairy sectors.
  - Investigating an event at Greenfield Farms or following a farmers' market

## Group Suggestions

Ohio Beekeepers Conference in October.

Create a 1-pg description of workshops to share

Create a "next step" advanced workshop

# Network Goal #2

- Continue virtual meeting series



- Mid-term Progress...
  - Grant period presentations so far included 1 funding organization, 2 academic researchers, 2 farmers, and 1 planning meeting. Good ratio!

## Group Suggestions

Have a session with multiple short presentations of informal on-farm research. What have people tried and learned?

# Network Goal #3

## Group Suggestions

Yes, share it now to start creating connections!

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



- Mid-term Progress...
  - Workshops and meeting discussion notes.
  - Group survey.
  - Different from NORA report



## Group Suggestions

Need to use website better and get out the word about our group!

# Network Goal #4

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



- Mid-term Progress...
  - Good progress for midpoint.
  - Seeing some partnerships forming
  - Need to improve facilitator communications

# Network Goal #5

- At least 3 grants proposals or working groups.



- Mid-term Progress...
  - 4 Warner grant proposals
  - 1 OREI resubmission
  - Hopefully fall SARE and OFRF proposals

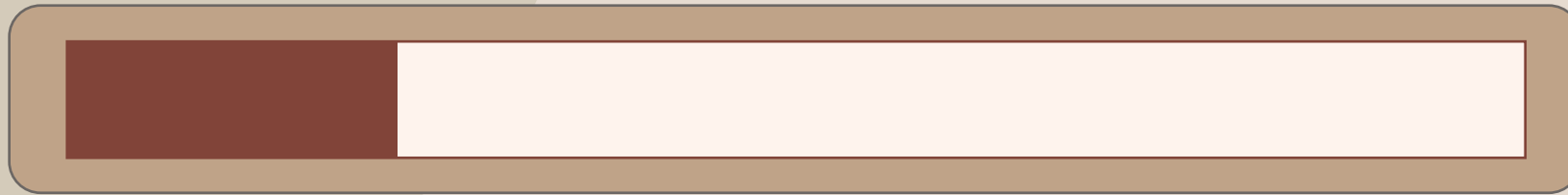
## Group Suggestions

Tour an on-farm research project in person – maybe a SARE recipient

Start early on grants

# 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
  - ◇ Other resources, services

## Group Suggestions

- Yes to membership database idea. Teams was suggested.

# 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. (???)
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# Other Considerations

## SUMMER AND FALL ACTIVITIES

- Workshops, farm tours, meetings, etc. that need to be timed well?
- Positioning our members for SARE, OFRF, and even OREI calls for proposals?
- Additional partners and resources to leverage for the future?
- Who's missing and how can we serve them?