2016-2017 Linkage and Leverage Grant Awards

Seed to Sustainability: Entrepreneurial Support for Seed Growers & Plant Breeders

- David Francis, OSU Hort. & Crop Science (Principal Investigator)
- Mary Nally, Community Food Initiatives
- Jess Chadwell, Community Food Initiatives
- Sally Miller, OSU Plant Pathology
- Kristin Mercer, OSU Hort. & Crop Science
- Alfredo Huerta, Miami University
- Peggy Shaffer, Miami University
- Paul Patton, Ohio University
- Art Trese, Ohio University
- Amy Cohen, OSU College of Law
- Doug Jackson-Smith, OSU Environment & Nat. Resources

Agricultural biodiversity is the lynchpin for a resilient food system. Diversity in agriculture can be improved by both increasing the diversity of crops as well as the genetic diversity within these crops. These goals are countered by consolidation in the seed industry and trends in patenting of varieties, an approach to intellectual property that restricts both farmer-saved seed and breeding. Community Food Initiatives has partnered with three Universities, seed banks, and agricultural groups to reverse the consolidation of seeds. This project engages and empowers seed savers and plant breeders to help address food security and sustainability through a series of regional workshops.

Food Insecurity Among Older Adults: The Role of Housing Costs and Home Equity

- Cäzilia Loibl, OSU Human Resources, College of Ed. & Human Ecology (Principal Investigator)
- Donald Haurin, OSU Economics, College of Arts & Sciences
- Stephanie Moulton, OSU Public Affairs
- Julia Brown, OSU Government Resource Center
- Michelle Kaiser, OSU Social Work
- Wendy Xu, OSU Public Health

This research investigates the relationships between food insecurity and housing costs, and whether home equity borrowing through reverse mortgages relieves food insecurity in older age. We connect seven OSU colleges to develop the foundation for a NIH proposal.
We propose a feasibility study for a local food infrastructure intended to increase institutions’ ability to purchase local foods and provide additional, stable revenue streams to small- and medium-sized farms in Licking County and Central Ohio.

The Association of the Food Environment to Dietary Intakes

Food environments in low-income communities, with fewer supermarkets and more convenience stores, provide less access to healthy foods. Our work will assess the interplay of sociodemographics, food environment and the diets of low income Americans.
Visioning and Initiating the New Student Farm at Waterman

- Alyssa Gordon (Principal Investigator), OSU Student, Farm Management
- Kristin Mercer (Co-Principal Investigator), OSU Hort. & Crop Science
- Chris Ratcliff, OSU Dept. of Engineering
- Meredith Krueger, Ohio Food Policy Network
- Emile Regnier, OSU Hort. & Crop Science
- Elaine Grassbaugh, OSU Hort. & Crop Science

This proposal addresses the critical need to revive The Ohio State University’s student farm at Waterman. Underpinned by a belief in resilient, ecological, and community-minded food systems, this proposal outlines a four-pronged approach to initiate the farm and envision its future. We emphasize the need to organize a unified community around student food and farming activities; break ground at Waterman; crystalize a mission and vision for the farm in a group studies course; and create structures for interdisciplinary curricular and community involvement ensuring the farm’s long-term sustainability.

Multiple Partners, One Cause: Shortening the Food Supply Chain

- Michelle Kaiser (Principal Investigator), OSU College of Social Work
- Kathy Dickson, Methodist Theological School in Ohio
- Gregory Hitzhusen, OSU School of Environment and Natural Resources
- Patrick Kaufman, Methodist Theological School in Ohio/Franklinton Farms (formerly Franklinton Gardens)
- Elaine Nogueira-Godsey, Methodist Theological School in Ohio
- Tadd Petersen, Methodist Theological School in Ohio/Seminary Hill Farm
- Hannah Scott, OSU, CFAES
- Kelsey Simkins, Methodist Theological School in Ohio
- Nick Stanich, Franklinton Farms (formerly Franklinton Gardens)
- Kareem Usher, OSU Knowlton School of Architecture
- Tim VanMeter, Methodist Theological School in Ohio
- Yvonne Zimmerman, Methodist Theological School in Ohio

Linking two institutions of higher education, the resources of an established food hub network, two established non-profit farms, and a number of small scale producers practicing sustainable agriculture, this pilot project will develop and test a food hub model in a low-income area of Columbus.
The Farmer's Minefield: Assessing the Ecological and Economic Capacity of Post-conflict Agricultural Systems in Cambodia

- Erin Lin, (Principal Investigator), OSU Political Science
- Nicholas Basta, OSU School of Environment and Natural Resources
- Leah Bevis, OSU Agricultural, Environmental and Development Economics
- Ted Patterson, Mine Action Development Analyst
- Zlatko Vezilic, Norwegian People’s Aid
- Sron Samrithea, UNDP—Cambodia Mine Action Authority
- Greg Crowther, Mine Action Group
- Camille Wallen, HALO Trust Global M&E
- Andrew Beath, World Bank

To better understand why unexploded ordnance often reduce the health of agroecosystems, we propose an environmental impact study that identifies the chemical contaminants in recently demined Cambodian rice paddies. Local soil amendments to remediate contaminated soil will be explored.

Making Maya Milpa: Maize Farming, Agroecological Research, and Food Security in Belize and Ohio State

- Joel Wainwright, (Principal Investigator), OSU Geography
- María Fernanda Herce Sánchez, UNAM Ecology and Natural Resources
- Lev Jardón Barbolla, UNAM Center for Interdisciplinary Research in the Sciences and Humanities
- Shiguo Jiang, SUNY-Albany Geography
- Nick Kawa, OSU Anthropology
- Kristin Mercer, OSU Hort. & Crop Science
- Henry Peller, OSU Hort. & Crop Science
- Kareem Usher, OSU Knowlton School of Architecture

This project extends our research on the drivers of food insecurity and agroecological change in the Maya milpas of southern Belize. In addition to advancing our basic scientific research, the proposed project will allow us to begin participatory research activities in Maya communities, deepen institutional linkages at OSU, create new student learning opportunities, and leverage our progress to apply for external funding.
Preliminary Stakeholder Consultation for Local Development of Food System Intervention Concept

- Kip Curtis, (Principal Investigator), OSU Mansfield
- Kathryn Nelson, OSU Mansfield
- Kareem Usher, OSU Knowlton School of Architecture
- Leah Bevis, OSU Agricultural, Environmental and Development Economics
- Doug Jackson-Smith, OSU Environment & Nat. Resources
- Fred Michel, OSU Food, Agricultural and Biological Engineering
- Matthew Kleinhenz, OSU Hort. & Crop Science
- Deanna West-Torrence, North End Community Improvement Collaborative
- Candace Harrell, North End Community Improvement Collaborative
- Mona Kneuss, North End Community Improvement Collaborative
- Cynthia Wood, OSU Mansfield

We will implement a process of community engagement and participation to develop the outlines of a food systems ‘intervention’ to improve economic opportunity, educational outcomes, diet-related health, and food security in Mansfield, Ohio. Specifically, we will explore a cross section of food system strategies and opportunities ranging from investments in a local urban microfarm cooperative production, to enhanced rural-urban market connections, to potential organic waste stream systems, to the enhancement of small batch food processing as means to address the systemic crises associated with deindustrialization in small Midwestern cities.