Food and Ag in the City
March 2015 Update From Around Ohio
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
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
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.