OSU Extension Field Specialists

OSU Extension field specialists are located around the state. Each field specialist has a particular focus and is able to respond quickly to current topics and pressing issues. The field specialists also work to expand existing partnerships, develop new relationships, and foster long-term collaborations across the state to complement what local educators are doing. They develop/enhance new curriculum, provide regional and state-applicable programs, co-sponsor programs with county-based staff, work with grants, and perform/document impact evaluations.
Mission Statement
Engaging people to strengthen their lives and communities through research-based educational programming.

Vision Statement
OSU Extension is a dynamic educational entity that partners with individuals, families, communities, business and industry, and organizations to strengthen the lives of Ohioans.

Field Specialist Positions Coming Soon
Agronomic Systems
Food Safety, Selection and Management
Community and Organizational Leadership Development

Agricultural and Resource Law

Peggy Kirk Hall
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Union Co. Extension Office
1800 State Route 4
Marysville, OH 43040

Education:
BS and MS, Resource Policy, The Ohio State University;
JD, University of Wyoming College of Law

Professional Background:
Attorney, Wright and Logan, LLP, Dublin, Ohio;
atorney, Michigan United Conservation Clubs

Specialization/Focus Area:
Legal issues in agricultural production; land use
and environmental law; energy and resource law,
legal education

Plan of Action:
Collaborate with external partners and Ohio State
experts to address legal issues in agriculture and natural
resources from a cross-disciplinary, research-based
approach.

Team Work:
Ohio Ag Manager; Shale Energy Educator Team; Women
in Agriculture; Small Farm Team

Academic Connections:
Agricultural, Environmental and Development Economics

The Ohio State University is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Institution. For more information: go.osu.edu/cfaesdiversity

Greg Davis, interim director of Ohio State University Extension, 2120 Fyffe Rd, Room 3 Columbus, OH 43210

For deaf and hard of hearing, please contact Ohio State University Extension using your preferred communication (e-mail, relay services,
or video relay services). Phone 1-800-750-0750 between 8a.m. and 5p.m. EST Monday through Friday. Inform the operator to dial 614-292-6181. (July 2015)
Field Specialists  
Fall 2015

Agronomic Systems

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1100 S Detroit St.  
Bellefontaine, OH 43311

Education:
BS and MS, Agronomy, University of Missouri – Columbia; Certified Crop Advisor (CCA); Certified Professional Agronomist (CPAg)

Professional Background:
Agriculture and Natural Resources Extension educator; county Extension director

Specialization/Focus Area:
Soils and soil fertility; insect/disease management; corn, soybean and wheat production; precision agriculture and on-farm research

Plan of Action:
Fertility management of corn and soybeans; economic and environmentally sound management of NPK; maximizing corn and soybean yields through pest control and management practices.

Team Work:
Agronomic Crops (co-coordinator)

Academic Connections:
Horticulture and Crop Science; School of Environment and Natural Resources; Food, Agricultural and Biological Engineering; Plant Pathology; Entomology

Education:
BS, Natural Resources, Soils; and MS, Agronomy, The Ohio State University; Certified Crop Adviser (CCA); Certified Professional Agronomist (CPAg); Commercial Pesticide Applicator

Professional Background:
Agriculture and Natural Resources Extension educator; agronomic systems manager, Monsanto Corporation; senior field biologist, BASF Corporation; product development agronomist, Calgene Inc; market development agronomist, BASF Wyandotte Corporation

Specialization/Focus Area:
Agronomic crop improvement including weed management, nutrient management, product testing, alternative crops, international agriculture

Plan of Action:
Conduct field research and gather information on yield improvement; deliver information on yield improvement. Maximize economic value of nitrogen.

Team Work:
Agronomic Crops Team (co-coordinator)

Academic Connections:
Horticulture and Crop Science; School of Natural Resources; Food, Agricultural and Biological Engineering; Plant Pathology; Entomology; Agricultural, Environment and Development Economics
Community Economics

**Field Specialists Fall 2015**

**Nancy Bowen-Ellzey**

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**David Civittolo**

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Wooster, OH 44691

**Education:**
Master of Urban and Regional Planning (MURP), University of New Orleans; BS, General Studies/Geography and Community Economics, University of New Orleans; and Certified Economic Developer (CEcD), International Economic Development Council

**Professional Background:**
Community Development Extension educator, economic development director, Van Wert County; consultant, Bowen & Associates; executive director, Louisiana Council on Workforce Development; business development manager, Jefferson Economic Development Commission

**Specialization/Focus Area:**
Sustainable economic development; community and regional planning

**Plan of Action:**
Collaborate with Extension colleagues, campus-based faculty, community leaders, and students to identify needs and implement strategies to improve the economic conditions and increase capacity in communities along the rural-urban continuum in Ohio.

**Team Work:**
Business Retention and Expansion; Shale Sustainable Development; Renewable Energy Development; Entrepreneurial Communities; Local Government Toolbox; Tourism and Downtown Development

**Academic Connections:**
Agricultural, Environmental and Development Economics; Glenn School of Public Affairs

**Education:**
MPA, Bowling Green State University; and BS, Criminal Justice, Bowling Green State University

**Professional Background:**
OSU Extension, Medina County; village manager, Sebring, Ohio; village administrator, Grafton and McComb, Ohio

**Specialization/Focus Area:**
Strategic planning for economic development organizations; BR&E surveys for Ohio communities; retail market analysis; leadership programs

**Plan of Action:**
Collaborate with community leaders and economic development partners to: educate interested parties in community economics and its impact on quality of life issues; achieve community economic growth as measured by jobs created and retained along with capital business investment; address business needs as identified by survey data; understand the local retail economy by identifying retail economic surpluses and leakages; and develop comprehensive economic development plans for interested communities or regions.

**Team Work:**
Community Development; Local Land Use Tools; Renewable Energy; Business Retention and Expansion

**Academic Connections:**
City and Regional Planning, Agricultural and Resource Law Program, Center for Urban and Regional Analysis
Field Specialists

Fall 2015

Dairy Production Economics

Dianne Shoemaker
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Canfield, OH 44406

Education:
BS, Dairy Science; and MS Dairy Science Agribusiness,
The Ohio State University

Professional Background:
Dairy farm financial management specialist;
Extension educator; Extension dairy specialist;
Ohio FINPACK leader; dairy farm manager

Specialization/Focus Area:
Dairy production economics; dairy farm manager

Plan of Action:
Work with OSU colleagues, farmers, and industry partners to improve the competitiveness and profitability of Ohio’s farmers.

Team Work:
Dairy Work Group; Ohio Ag Manager; Ohio FINPACK

Academic Connections:
Animal Sciences; Veterinary Preventative Medicine; Agricultural, Environmental and Developmental Economics

Energy Development

Eric Romich
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(cell) 419-310-8147
1461 Mount Union Ave
Marion, OH 43302

Education:
BS, Business Administration and Process Management, Franklin University; MS, Exercise, Leisure and Sports Administration, Kent State University

Professional Background:
Community Development Extension educator; director, Wyandot County Office of Economic Development; director, Wyandot County Regional Planning Commission

Specialization/Focus Area:
Energy development; renewable energy; shale energy; energy efficiency; unit/professional support services

Plan of Action:
Develop and deliver educational programming concentrated on energy policy, renewable energy development, shale energy development, and energy efficiency.

Team Work:
Shale Energy Work Group; Energize Ohio Signature Program; Business Retention and Expansion
Field Specialists  
Fall 2015

**Family Wellness**

Jim Bates  
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151C Campbell Hall  
1787 Neil Ave  
Columbus, OH 43210

**Education:**  
BS, Marriage, Family and Human Development,  
Brigham Young University; MS, Child Development and  
Family Studies, Purdue University; Ph.D., Child and  
Family Studies, Syracuse University

**Professional Background:**  
Assistant professor, South Dakota State University;  
project manager, Syracuse University, hub of the National  
Healthy Marriage Resource Center; assistant family  
services coordinator, Mountainland Head Start

**Specialization/Focus Area:**  
Intergenerational family relationships; aging; family  
resilience and wellness; family life educational  
programming

**Plan of Action:**  
Work collaboratively with county, state and national  
Extension professionals to address the familial,  
relational, psychological, and developmental needs of  
Ohioans. Engage public and private human service  
agencies and educational organizations to provide  
educational programs to families. Conduct high-quality  
research that can be translated into family life  
educational programming.

**Team Work:**  
Healthy Relationships; Parenting;  
Successful Co-Parenting; Aging

**Academic Connections:**  
College of Education and Human Ecology

**Food, Nutrition and Wellness**

Dan Remley  
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OSU South Centers  
1864 Shyville Road  
Piketon, OH 45661

**Education:**  
BA, Zoology, Miami University; MS, Public Health,  
University of Alabama – Birmingham; PhD, Nutritional  
Sciences, University of Kentucky

**Professional Background:**  
Family and Consumer Sciences educator; regional  
nutrition specialist, University of Missouri Outreach and  
Extension; certified ServSafe instructor and proctor

**Specialization/Focus Area:**  
Developing healthy and sustainable food systems;  
chronic disease management; youth and worksite  
wellness

**Plan of Action:**  
Develop relationships with those working on food,  
nutrition and wellness issues around the state; find  
teaching and research opportunities that focus on  
changing individuals’ eating behaviors; collaborate  
on a multi-state AFRI grant focusing on preventing  
childhood obesity; collaborate on AFRI grant focusing  
on improving food security and healthy food access in  
rural communities.

**Team Work:**  
Healthy People; Dining with Diabetes; Health and  
Wellness in the City Team; Healthy Eating, Active  
Living (Heal) Maps Team; Local Foods
Field Specialists

Manure Nutrient Management Systems

Glen Arnold
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(cell) 419-235-4724
7868 CR 140, Suite B
Findlay, OH 45840

Education:
BS, Agricultural Mechanization and Systems and Agricultural Education, The Ohio State University; MS, Education, Purdue University

Professional Background:
Agriculture and Natural Resources Extension educator; vocational agriculture instructor and FFA adviser

Specialization/Focus Area:
Manure nutrient management systems; livestock mortality composting

Plan of Action:
Conduct on-farm manure plot work with livestock producers; OSU Extension Manure Science Review; Conservation Tillage and Technology Conference; Midwest Professional Nutrient Applicators Association.

Team Work:
Agronomic Crops

Academic Connections:
Food, Agricultural and Biological Engineering

Taxation

Larry Gearhardt
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34 Ag Admin Bldg.
2120 Fyffe Rd.
Columbus, Ohio 43210

Education:
BA, Business Administration, Wittenberg University; JD, University of Toledo College of Law, Toledo, OH

Professional Background:
Attorney, Dungan & LeFevre, LLP; director of Legal and Local Affairs, Ohio Farm Bureau; director of State Legislative Affairs, Ohio Farm Bureau

Specialization/Focus Area:
Federal, state, and local income tax; estate tax and planning; sales tax; employment tax; social security, fuel tax

Plan of Action:
Serve as director of OSU Income Tax Schools and ANR tax issues seminars for continuing education credits of tax practitioners; develop research-based taxation curricula, information and resources for public use; partner with the Land Grant University Tax Education Foundation, the IRS, and the Ohio Department of Taxation for educational programming.

Team Work:
Ohio Ag Manager

Academic Connection:
Agricultural, Environmental and Development Economics
Field Specialists

Volunteerism and 4-H Community Clubs

Jeff Dick
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8770 SR 108, Suite A
Wauseon, OH 43567

Education:
AS, Ag Business Management and Animal Science, Northwest Technical College; BS and MS, Agricultural Education, The Ohio State University

Professional Background:
4-H Youth Development Extension educator; county Extension director

Specialization/Focus Area:
Risk management as it relates to volunteerism and 4-H community clubs

Plan of Action:
Strengthening volunteerism, risk management and 4-H club management throughout Ohio.

Team Work:
Volunteerism and Community Club Development; 4-H Professional Development; OSU Extension Risk Management; Companion Animals eXtension Community of Practice

Youth Nutrition and Wellness

Carol Smathers
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614-688-1801
163A Campbell Hall
1787 Neil Avenue
Columbus, OH 43210

Education:
Master of Public Health, The Ohio State University; MS, Education, Western Oregon University; BS, Community Health, Oregon State University

Professional Background:
Research manager, Ohio State University Prevention Research Center in the College of Public Health; program coordinator, Children, Youth, and Families at Risk (CYFAR) project based in Ohio 4-H Youth Development; high school teaching; non-profit leadership experience

Specialization/Focus Area:
Youth nutrition and wellness; public health strategies, including policy and environment change; Farm to School; promotion of healthy beverages; youth advocacy for healthy living

Plan of Action:
Creating better nutrition outcomes for youth through improved policies, systems, and environments; supporting procurement of and interactive education about local foods within Ohio schools; developing resources to support community collaborations and youth advocacy initiatives that foster healthy living.

Team Work:
Farm to School Advisory Team; Local Foods, 4-H Healthy Living Design Team; Cooperative Extension’s Positive Youth Development for Health Action Team and National Health Outreach Conference program committee (co-chair)

Academic Connections:
Adjunct appointments in the Ohio State College of Public Health and College of Education and Human Ecology