

# OSU Extension Field Specialists

OSU Extension field specialists are located throughout 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 and enhance new curriculum, provide regional and state-applicable programs, co-sponsor programs with county-based staff, work with grants, and perform and document impact evaluations.

## OSU Extension Vision

Ohioans have the *knowledge* and *resources* they need to actively engage in creating conditions in which they *thrive*.

## OSU Extension Mission

We create *opportunities* for people to explore how *science-based knowledge* can *improve social, economic* and *environmental conditions*.



# EXTENSION

## Field Specialists Summer 2017

### Agricultural and Resource Law



**Peggy Kirk Hall**

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Union Co. Extension Office

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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;  
attorney, 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

### Agronomic Systems



**Elizabeth Hawkins**

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#### Education:

AA, Agronomy, and BS, Agricultural Systems  
Management, Purdue University; MS, Crop Science,  
University of Illinois; PhD, Agricultural Systems  
Management, Purdue University

#### Professional Background:

Research assistant – soybean breeding, Monsanto Co.

#### Specialization/Focus Area:

Precision and data-driven agriculture, agronomic  
crop production, and on-farm research

#### Plan of Action:

Conduct research to identify methods to increase farm  
profits including improved crop yields, better manage-  
ment of resources, and the employment of effective  
precision agriculture technologies; increase awareness  
of the impacts of data quality and data management on  
agronomic decision making.

#### Team Work:

Agronomic Crops Team, Precision Ag Team

#### Academic Connections:

Food, Agricultural, and Biological Engineering;  
Horticulture and Crop Science; School of Environment  
and Natural Resources

Roger Rennekamp, director of Ohio State University Extension, 2120 Fyffe Road, Room 3, Columbus, OH 43210

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THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

COLLEGE OF FOOD, AGRICULTURAL,  
AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

# EXTENSION

## Field Specialists Summer 2017

### Agronomic Systems



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#### 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

### Agronomic Systems



**Harold Watters**  
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 Bellefontaine, OH 43311

#### 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 Environment and Natural Resources; Food, Agricultural and Biological Engineering; Plant Pathology; Entomology; Agricultural, Environmental and Development Economics



# EXTENSION

## Field Specialists Summer 2017

### Community Economics



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 Lima, OH 45804

#### 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 and 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; John Glenn College of Public Affairs

### Community Economics



**David Civittolo**  
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 OARDC  
 1680 Madison Ave  
 Wooster, OH 44691

#### 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; Business Retention and Expansion 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/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

# EXTENSION

## Field Specialists Summer 2017

### Dairy Production Economics



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**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 Ohio State 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 Development Economics

### Energy Development



**Eric Romich**  
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 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; Business Retention and Expansion



# EXTENSION

## Field Specialists Summer 2017

### Family Wellness



**Jim Bates**  
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 1787 Neil Ave  
 Columbus, OH 43210

#### Education:

BS, Marriage, Family and Human Development, Brigham Young University; MS, Child Development and Family Studies, Purdue University; PhD, 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

# EXTENSION

## Field Specialists Summer 2017

### *Food Safety and Management*



**Abby Snyder**  
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 201 Administration Building  
 1680 Madison Ave  
 Wooster, OH 44691

#### **Education:**

BS, Food Science, The Ohio State University;  
 PhD, Food Microbiology, Cornell University

#### **Professional Background:**

Food safety assurance; microbial inactivation and process validation; regulatory and audit compliance; food preservation and shelf stability

#### **Specialization/Focus Area:**

Microbial food safety; food spoilage; safe food handling practices; risk management; emerging threats to food safety; food security; waste reduction

#### **Plan of Action:**

Develop a systems approach to addressing the food safety risks facing consumers today. Collaborate with community groups, educational institutions, industry, regulators, and cross-disciplinary members of the cooperative Extension system in program implementation. Provide technical support and training for consumers and producers seeking to reduce the incidence of foodborne disease.

#### **Team Work:**

Food Safety Team, Food Preservation Team, Local Foods

#### **Academic Connections:**

College of Education and Human Ecology;  
 Department of Food Science and Technology

### *Manure Nutrient Management Systems*



**Glen Arnold**  
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#### **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

# EXTENSION

## Field Specialists Summer 2017

### Organizational and Community Leadership Development



**Brian Raison**  
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 Xenia, OH 45385

#### Education:

BS, College of Business, The Ohio State University; MA, Sociology, Ohio University; PhD, Agricultural Extension Education, The Ohio State University

#### Professional Background:

Assistant professor and community development Extension educator; communications and government affairs manager at Mead Corporation (Chillicothe, Ohio and Kingsport, TN); economic development director, city of Chillicothe, Ohio

#### Specialization/Focus Area:

Community and organizational leadership development (leadership programming and facilitation; process facilitation; strategic planning; vision-to-action; evaluation, business and non-profit leadership). Special focus on local food systems leadership needs, as well as individual and community health and engaging older youth/emerging adults in building networks for collaboration

#### Plan of Action:

Bring together resources – people, information, ideas and processes – to positively affect outcomes larger than otherwise possible. Accomplish this by building collaborative partnerships among faculty, staff and community members. Conduct targeted research-based programming and facilitation.

#### Academic Connections:

Department of Agricultural Communication, Education, and Leadership in the College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences

### Volunteerism and 4-H Community Clubs



**Jeff Dick**  
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 419-337-9210  
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 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





# EXTENSION

## Field Specialists Summer 2017

### *Youth Nutrition and Wellness*



**Carol Smathers**

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Columbus, OH 43210

**Education:**

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

**Professional Background:**

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

**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 College of Public Health and College of Education and Human Ecology

