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.
Field Specialists

**Agricultural and Resource Law**

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**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**

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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 management 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
### Agronomic Systems

**Greg LaBarge**  
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Marion, OH 43302

**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

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**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
Community Economics

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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

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OARDC
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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
**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 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

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**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
Family Wellness

Jim Bates  
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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

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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
Food Safety and Management

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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

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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
Organizational and Community Leadership Development

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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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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

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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