

# Agriculture and Natural Resources



The Farm Financial Management and Policy Institute (FFMPI) and the Farm Office team collaborate to offer expertise and resources to Ohioans in the areas of **farm management, agricultural and resource law, and farm business**. In 2024, our team provided a Farm Business Analysis Program for 24 Ohio farms—with assets totaling \$101M.



**The Ohio AgrAbility Program** works alongside the office of Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities to secure funding to **help farmers** secure assistive technology, equipment, worksite modifications, and other services **to accommodate their disabilities**.

## Extreme Weather Outreach | 2024 drought

Nearly every Ohio community felt the effects of the 2024 drought. Before conditions officially deteriorated, Ohio State University Extension was actively monitoring rainfall, temperatures, humidity, and precipitation outlooks—key factors in determining official drought declarations.

Our climate experts and educators in the field collaborated to provide weekly updates to agricultural producers, commodity group leaders, elected officials, and the broader public in multiple ways—a webpage that nearly 18,000 people visited (representing 639 U.S. cities) and social media posts that engaged with nearly 4,000 people.

More than 3,000 **Master Gardener Volunteers** log **162,000+ volunteer hours** annually. Some of their recent programming and volunteer work have focused on **pollinator gardens and invasive species outreach**.

**Farm Stress Management** and Mental Health First Aid are current priorities. Our experts have trained more than 200 mental health providers and clinicians.

**Close to 5,000 people participated** in Natural Resources Programming in 2024—including A Day in the Woods, Ohio's Certified Volunteer Naturalist Program, and Woodland Stewards programming.

**Nearly 6,000 people are subscribed** to the Crop Observation and Recommendation Network (C.O.R.N.) newsletter.



## Applied Research Impacts Producer Decisions

On-farm research is a priority across the state. Extension educators and specialists work directly with growers to conduct research in real-life situations. Study results are widely shared, and agricultural producers use the research findings to guide their farm management decisions. Three of the most visible efforts are our eFields, eBarns, and ePLUS research programs.

Learn more about eFields research at [go.osu.edu/efields](https://go.osu.edu/efields).

Learn more about eBarns at [kx.osu.edu/ebarns](https://kx.osu.edu/ebarns).

Learn more about ePLUS at [go.osu.edu/eplus](https://go.osu.edu/eplus).

## Farm Science Review Education Reaches Thousands

Extension professionals identify, organize, and facilitate the educational side of Farm Science Review. Some of the highlights include:

- Field demonstrations
- Ag safety talks and demonstrations
- Tours of the Gwynne Conservation Area
- Ask the Expert talks

It is estimated that there are at least 100 Extension professionals on site every day of this iconic three-day farm show.



## Water Quality and Nutrient Management

OSU Extension's water quality associates engage farmers and their advisors on new production strategies, technologies, and conservation practice use. Suggested practices aim to improve fertilizer use efficiency and promote soil health to reduce nutrient and sediment losses within the Western Lake Erie Basin. Webinars, field days, and on-farm demonstrations show practice benefits to the farm and water quality. Extension programming encourages widespread adoption of practices and sustained implementation. The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is the primary funding source. Cargill has provided additional funding that supports program efforts. More information can be found at [waterqualityextension.osu.edu](https://waterqualityextension.osu.edu).