

## SWOEFFA CHAPTER PROFILE

**CHAPTER NAME:** Southwest OEFFA Chapter

**SWOEFFA CHAPTER MISSION STATEMENT / GOALS:** The mission of SWOEFFA is to increase awareness, production and consumption of locally grown products through public education and farmer/consumer relationships

**DESCRIPTION OF CHAPTER MEMBERS:** SWOEFFA members are producers, consumers, students, and/or educators who are also OEFFA members. Non-OEFFA community individuals are invited to join our meetings as appropriate.

**EXAMPLES OF PROGRAMS/EDUCATION/OUTREACH/INFORMATION/NETWORKING MADE AVAILABLE THROUGH CHAPTER:** For the foreseeable future, SWOEFFA will continue monthly meetings via zoom with assistance from OEFFA staff. Topics and guest speakers will focus on advancing SWOEFFA's mission and assisting members in their work.

### **CONTACT INFORMATION:**

**FACILITATOR:** Cori Yaeger, 2895 Wilmington Road, Lebanon OH 45036, [iroc1949@icloud.com](mailto:iroc1949@icloud.com), 513-706-9323

**PRESIDENT:** OPEN

**VICE PRSIDENT:** OPEN

**STEERING COMMITTEE:** Caren Welborne [cwelborne@yahoo.com](mailto:cwelborne@yahoo.com) , Steve Edwards [st55Edwards@gmail.com](mailto:st55Edwards@gmail.com) , Cori Yaeger [iroc1949@icloud.com](mailto:iroc1949@icloud.com)

*(NOTE: because in-person meetings have not been possible due to COVID-19, we have not named officers nor assigned a core planning group, other than the 3 named as steering committee members above. Steering committee members take input on topics members would like to see at each meeting and arrange speakers and presentations as needed.)*

**A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE CHAPTER:** SWOEFFA has existed since the original five state regions were changed to a chapter system. Local members have done many activities over the years, including mini-conferences, farm tours, movie showings, booths, lectures, grower supply joint purchasing, and potluck meetings. Chapter activity has varied over the years and has partly depended on the time and energy availability of many volunteers. Facilitators have included Eric Pawlowski, Melinda O'Briant, Sandra Murphy, Charlie Gonzalez, and Sally Godschalk. Core group planners have included Mary Lu Lageman, David Rosenberg, Debra Jordan, Sue Ellen Shoupe, Jim Lowenburg, Karen Mandell, Matt Tomaszewski, Bonnie Mitsui, Mary Ida Compton, Amy Casper, Anne Welling, and Steve Edwards.

We re-organized in 2020 starting with a meetup gathering at the annual OEFFA conference on February 15. We planned to have quarterly in-person meetings, but with the coronavirus shutdowns, we switched to zoom meetings in May of 2020. Since that time we have met each month with participation ranging from 8-20 individuals at each meeting. Meetings have focused on networking, challenges facing producers and consumers due to the coronavirus, education on quality eating and vaccine development, and discussion of areas of concern to growers and consumers in our area. A few of our meetings have been virtual potlucks with attendees sharing what they would have brought to an in-person potluck. OEFFA staff updates our members on policy and membership issues at each meeting. We will continue monthly Zoom meetings for the foreseeable future.

Updated 12.8.20