

Southeast Ohio OEFFA Chapter

(formerly Athens Chapter)

The OEFFA Southeast Ohio (SEO) chapter serves as a grassroots voice for OEFFA members from Athens, Gallia, Hocking, Jackson, Lawrence, Meigs, Monroe, Morgan, Noble, Perry, Vinton, and Washington counties. The Chapter began in 1989 when OEFFA created statewide regions encouraging areas to form Chapters.

We strive to support one another in building a healthy food system that supports family farms, protects the environment, and provides safe, local food.

In a member survey conducted the fall of 2017, membership data revealed member's constituency as: Consumer-43%; Farmers/Producers-33%; Business Owners-24%; Educators-14%; and Non-profit reps/students and others-28%.

The primary goal of the chapter is to offer local events educating both the membership and our communities on topics of organic food production and issues related to creating a healthy food system. Past activities of the chapter included cooperatively organizing a seed order and selling locally sourced Thanksgiving boxes. The Chapter has always prided itself on sponsoring statewide tours of local organic farms. During 2018 under President Justin Hamlin's guidance, the chapter sponsored a Four-part Beginning Agricultural Entrepreneurial Program, participated in an Ohio University Food Panel, organized two farm tours, and coordinated a round table on ancient seeds.

Current Officers are:

President-Justin Hamlin Interim Secretary-Lynne Genter

OEFFA Board Rep-Bob O'Neil Member Outreach-Bob O'Neil

Members of our chapter have received OEFFA's statewide recognition for their contributions to the entire organic community:

- Rich Tomsu--2009, Stewardship
- Ed Perkins--2014, Service
- Kip and Becky Rondy--2014, Stewardship
- Bill Dix and Stacy Hall--2015, Stewardship

Chapter presidents in order of leadership service: Rich Tomsu, Stacy Hall, Ed Perkins, Angie Starline, Greg Howard, and Justin Hamlin.