

Southeast OEFFA Chapter

The Southeast OEFFA 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, originally named Athens OEFFA, 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 for all.

Our members' constituency (according to a recent survey) is: Consumers 43%; Farmers/producers 33%; Business owners 24%; Educators 14%; Non-profit reps/students and others 28%.

The primary goal of the chapter is to offer local events educating membership and our communities on topics of organic food production and issues related to creating a healthy food system. Past activities of the chapter include farm tours; tabling, education, and outreach at SE Ohio events; presentations by and for farmers and other food producers; a cooperative seed order; selling locally sourced Thanksgiving boxes.

Highlights from 2022 include a tour of a farm transitioning from conventional toward organic practices; a comprehensive tour of Ohio University's student farm; multiple educational forums focused on climate and soil health and the 2023 Farm Bill.

Current Officers:

President: Christine Hughes, villagebakery@dellazona.com, (740) 592-1596

Secretary: Rotating volunteers

Officers will be elected annually, each January or at a February chapter meeting during the annual OEFFA conference.

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.