

THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY



continuum

News from the College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences

Spring 2015



HUNGER AMID PLENTY

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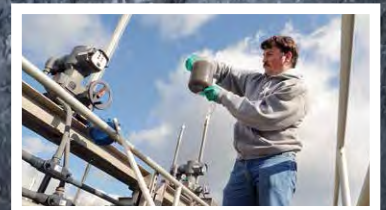
CENTERED ON SUCCESS

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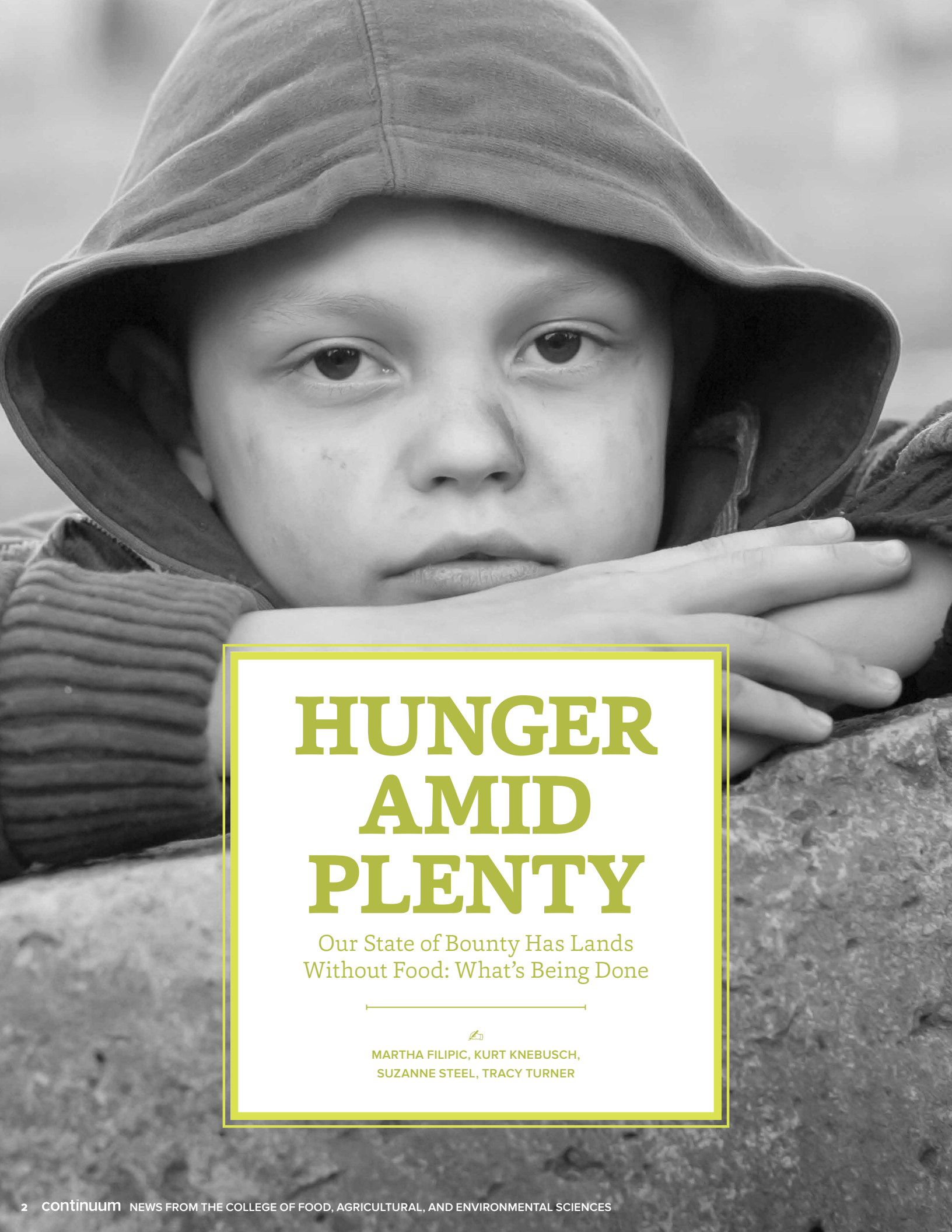
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HUNGER AMID PLENTY

Our State of Bounty Has Lands
Without Food: What's Being Done



MARTHA FILIPIC, KURT KNEBUSCH,
SUZANNE STEEL, TRACY TURNER



Joni Dickinson grocery shops just once each month for her family of eight, including herself, her husband

and their six children ages 3 to 13. There are no grocery stores in Vinton County where they live. The closest one is 20 miles away, and gas is too expensive to drive there more often. The family enjoys fresh produce for a week or two—beyond that it goes bad. They make milk runs to the Dollar General in McArthur, but the Dickinsons have to spend more for it than most Ohioans. It sold for \$3.35 per gallon one day in April, when Columbus stores were selling gallons for \$1.99 to \$2.99.

The Dickinsons' situation illustrates what many rural and urban Ohioans face. Amid Ohio's agricultural wealth, they live in a so-called food desert.

In fact, of the 1.97 million rural households across Ohio, some 475,095 live in households outside a 10-minute drive to any grocery store, said Dan Remley, a field specialist in food, nutrition and wellness for Ohio State University Extension. Statewide, only 851,604 or 43 percent of Ohio's households live within a 10-minute drive of a large supermarket, he said.

JUST 'CORNER STORES AND FAST-FOOD OUTLETS'

In some Cleveland neighborhoods, just a few miles from LeBron and Cavs, the Horseshoe Casino, Playhouse Square, the Rock Hall, from all their attendant abundance, a person can't buy a fresh apple. Tomato. Sweet pepper. Broccoli bunch.

Some 55 percent of Clevelanders live in food deserts, according to the Fair Food Network, areas with little access to fresh, healthy foods. There's no full-service grocer close to home, and often no easy way to reach one. (See one Cleveland woman's trek in a video at vimeo.com/15893049.)

"Many neighborhoods have little more than corner stores and fast-food outlets that provide high-calorie, low-nutrient foods," said Nico Boyd, community development program coordinator in OSU Extension's Cuyahoga County office. "These are the foods that many Cleveland residents eat every day," foods that contribute to diet-related diseases like diabetes.

The complexity of the food desert situation has

thwarted those who have tried to come up with solutions, said Dickinson.

For example, when the only grocery store in Vinton County closed, an organization offered transportation to the nearest one—but would only allow people to bring home three grocery bags, and they couldn't bring their children.

One man tried to set up a fresh meat market, but no buildings in town would pass code.

And while the Women, Infants, and Children program used to offer farmers market coupons, only one farmer in the county was able to

participate, and getting to the farm was a problem.

Dickinson is one of the few lucky ones to own a car. "Driving" the lawnmower for errands is a joke to some people, but the only form of transportation for many of Dickinson's neighbors.

HOW LOCAL FOOD POLICY COUNCILS CAN HELP

One theory being tested by OSU Extension, along with other states' Extension programs, is that communities with local food policy councils and food pantries will have better food security—and healthier food choices for community members.

Called "Voices for Food," the five-year, \$4 million project, funded by the U.S. Department of Agriculture and led by South Dakota State University, also includes researchers in Indiana, Michigan, Missouri and Nebraska. Improving food pantries is one of the project's major goals, Remley said.

"Food insecurity is a problem everywhere," Remley said. "We've seen high demand for food pantries in communities that you may not expect the demand."

Voices for Food provides resources to established food policy councils or resources to help communities form them.

"Emergency food pantries and kitchens were originally designed for short-term food relief, but we're seeing a lot of people becoming dependent on pantries for their weekly or monthly food needs," Remley said. "Unfortunately, a lot of pantries don't always offer the healthiest choices.

"We're trying to address that through the food policy councils."

continued



A key component of the project is to provide resources for food pantries to

adopt a “guided client choice” model, in which clients can choose foods from different food groups available at the pantry instead of being offered pre-packaged selections. The project has also developed nutrition education strategies for food pantries. It’s also important to form linkages between pantries and local farms and gardens to supply fresh foods, Remley said. While the project is focused on food deserts in the southern and eastern parts of the state, the issue impacts other pockets across Ohio, he said.

Extension teaches residents across Ohio, including in urban areas such as Cleveland, how to raise their own food, from greens to berries.

The project is funded through the USDA’s National Institute of Food and Agriculture and its 2012 Agriculture and Food Research Initiative’s Food Security Program.

The challenges are similar, yet different, in urban areas, and the solutions vary as well.

PRODUCE PERKS GOOD FOR FAMILIES AND FARMERS

As part of his role with OSU Extension, Boyd is program coordinator of the Cleveland–Cuyahoga County Food Policy Coalition. OSU Extension convenes the group, now in its ninth year of work. Its vision, its website says, is ensuring access for everyone in the county to fresh, healthy, affordable food.

“Hunger definitely plays a role in what we do,” he said. “Food insecurity is significant in a number of Cleveland neighborhoods.”

Efforts center on doing research and analysis, delivering outreach, and effecting supportive policy changes, such as tweaked zoning codes. Projects, for



example, teach residents how to raise their own food, from greens to berries to backyard chickens; connect

local urban farmers to new customers and so ramp up their sales; and show small corner stores how to successfully sell fresh foods.

Of note is the group’s Produce Perks program. It provides an incentive to people receiving food assistance to redeem their benefits at local farmers markets.

“Produce Perks has brought many low-income and food-insecure residents to farmers markets for the first time,” Boyd said. “Not only does it help stretch people’s food dollars to buy more fresh, local produce, it keeps food dollars here in our local economy and helps farmers grow their customer base and their enterprise.”

Produce Perks also spawned a similar program, Produce Prescription, for mothers and pregnant women.

Other coalition partners are Case Western Reserve University’s Prevention Research Center for Healthy Neighborhoods, the Cuyahoga County Board of Health, and more than two dozen area farms, nonprofits, NGOs, agencies, foundations, businesses and academic institutions.



One in six Ohioans are considered food insecure



Only 11 states are worse off than Ohio when it comes to food security

In addition to the coalition, OSU Extension's food security efforts in Cuyahoga County include running the six-acre Kinsman Farm incubator farm, supporting nearly 200 Summer Sprout community gardens, giving urban farming workshops to residents and training new Master Gardener Volunteers.

GROWING ONE'S GROCERIES AND STRETCHING FOOD DOLLARS

Back in Vinton County, Dickinson planned to attend a refresher course with OSU Extension before planting her own vegetable garden to supplement her family's supply of produce. She works two jobs, including at the Women, Infants, and Children program office, and is a recipient of Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) dollars, formerly called food stamps. She has attended educational programs through OSU Extension in the past on how to make food dollars stretch.

LesleyAnne Roddy is a family and consumer sciences educator in OSU Extension's office in Cuyahoga County, which is the state's largest recipient of SNAP.


"The need is great," Roddy said. "An education piece is really necessary to show people how to use those dollars in the best way possible."

According to the most recent USDA analysis, 16 percent of Ohioans were food insecure at least some time between 2011 and 2013. Only 11 other states fared worse than Ohio. SNAP dollars help provide a measure of food security, although the state's average monthly SNAP benefit is just over \$250 per household.

Roddy said she is finding participants young and old eager to learn skills to improve their diet and health. One recent five-week program was school-based for kindergarteners through second graders. Another was in a housing center for people on public assistance who have physical or developmental disabilities.

Roddy is conducting more SNAP-Ed programs in schools, senior facilities and at a food distribution site. She also has been approached by the owner of a supermarket that's soon to open in what's currently a food desert to assist the store's customers to make healthful choices.

"Before I started this job, I was just out of school and in financial straits myself, and there were times when I relied on a food pantry. So, I know where people are coming from," Roddy said.

For more on OSU Extension's educational programs to address hunger and nutrition, see go.osu.edu/ohfdsec. 



Roddy has already seen evidence of small impacts:


- *A first-grader proudly told her she now eats carrots as a snack. "She said she never used to like carrots before I started the SNAP-Ed lessons in her class," Roddy said.*
- *An adult participant noted during one session that she used sea salt, believing it was more healthful. "I was able to give her some insight that sea salt has just as much sodium as regular salt," Roddy said, and that there's no need to spend extra money on fancy alternatives.*

QUESTION FOR THE DEAN

How can CFAES help address Ohio's hunger issue?

One of our college's top priorities is to battle food insecurity. As shared elsewhere in this issue, a recent USDA study reported that more than 1 in 6 Ohio households faced "food insecurity" from 2010 to 2012. More concerning is that children rank high among Ohio's hungry. For example, the Youngstown metropolitan area ranked third, and the Dayton metropolitan area 27th nationally in the number of households with children facing food hardship, at 33 percent and 27.6 percent respectively.

Since we also enjoy one of the strongest agricultural economies in the nation, the level of food insecurity in Ohio is surprising. Changing this trajectory will require a broad set of solutions. Food deserts are found in our biggest cities and in our most rural areas. Ohio State University Extension already works closely with many existing community networks across the state—connecting farmers to new markets for fresh, local produce; arming Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program participants with information for stretching their food dollar; researching the role local food councils play in food security—but there is a need to invest additional resources to move these and other efforts forward.

In the coming months, look for a greater focus on creating new opportunities—tools, training, and business plans—for entrepreneurs who want to enter the food business and encouraging a greater engagement of our CFAES, and more broadly, Ohio State students in attacking the scourge of food insecurity in our communities. If you share our passion for addressing the hunger issue, consider a gift to the Cuyahoga County Extension Mt. Sinai Foundation Support to the Cleveland-Cuyahoga County Food Policy Coalition (#314949), which supports the initiatives of the Cleveland-Cuyahoga County Food Policy Coalition. 



Ohio's agriculture industry—from field to plate—is valued at \$105 billion

Ohio Soybean Council a Major Supporter of CFAES Research

 TRACY TURNER

Over the past two decades, more than \$13 million from the Ohio Soybean Council (OSC) and soybean checkoff has supported programs in the College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences that is working to improve Ohio's water quality and boost the yields of the state's No. 1 crop.

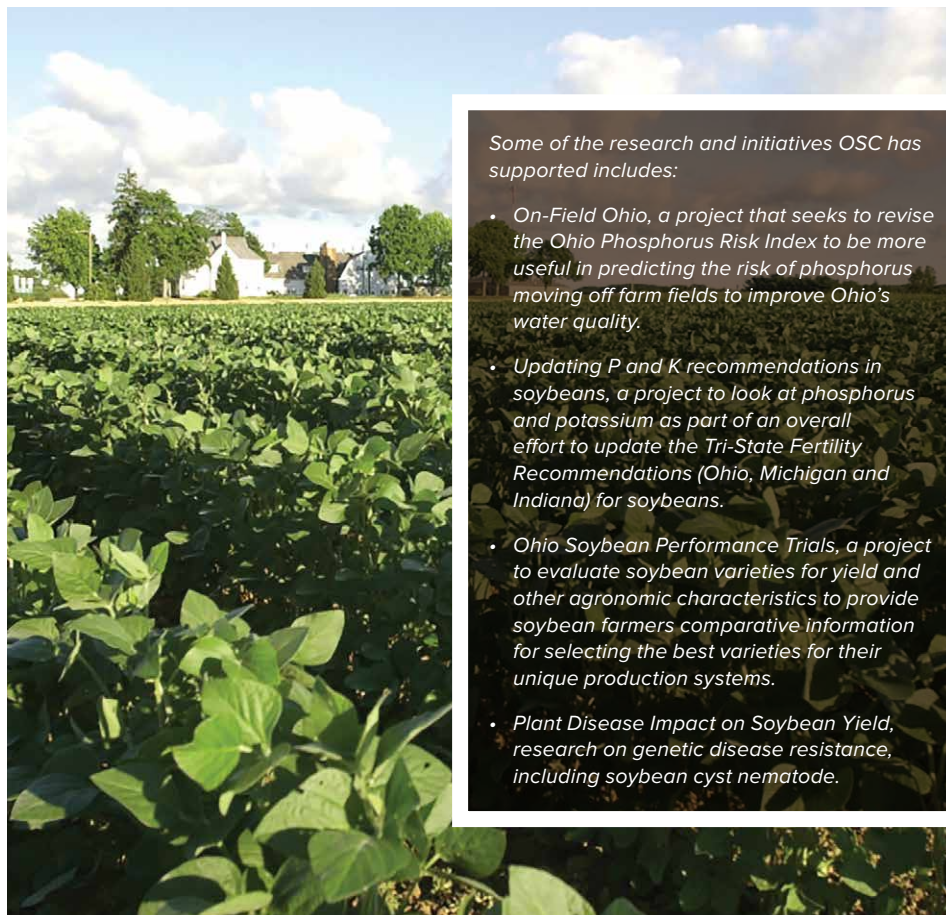
Tom Fontana, OSC Director of Research and Education, said the organization supports research at Ohio State because it provides benefits to all Ohio soybean farmers and helps them maintain their farm profitability.

"CFAES researchers have the best interest of our soybean farmers in mind," Fontana said. "The research they're performing provides invaluable information about pests, diseases, varieties and yields that can help farmers make the best decisions for their individual fields and farms."

"The soybean research team at Ohio State is extremely talented, well-known nationally and in-tune with the issues that soybean farmers face in growing food while also protecting the soil and water. Their dedication is helping farmers every day."

The soybean team is comprised of numerous Ohio State University Extension and Ohio Agricultural Research and Development Center researchers and educators. Their work focuses on soybean breeding; soybean yield and quality; soybean pathology; soybean insect threats; phosphorus management and soil health; weed management; and education through Extension.


Steve Slack, associate vice president for Agricultural Administration and director of the Ohio Agricultural Research and Development Center, said the impact OSC has on the college is tremendous.



Some of the research and initiatives OSC has supported includes:

- *On-Field Ohio, a project that seeks to revise the Ohio Phosphorus Risk Index to be more useful in predicting the risk of phosphorus moving off farm fields to improve Ohio's water quality.*
- *Updating P and K recommendations in soybeans, a project to look at phosphorus and potassium as part of an overall effort to update the Tri-State Fertility Recommendations (Ohio, Michigan and Indiana) for soybeans.*
- *Ohio Soybean Performance Trials, a project to evaluate soybean varieties for yield and other agronomic characteristics to provide soybean farmers comparative information for selecting the best varieties for their unique production systems.*
- *Plant Disease Impact on Soybean Yield, research on genetic disease resistance, including soybean cyst nematode.*

"The Ohio Soybean Council is very progressive and focused on those issues that affect the future of their industry," he said. "Therefore, the projects they fund at

Ohio State University are targeted to obtain a strong return on investment. This is good for the State of Ohio as well as OSC and Ohio State." 

The Ohio Soybean Council was founded in 1991 to manage the Soybean Promotion and Research Program, also known as the soybean checkoff. Governed by a board of volunteer farmers from around the state, the program's primary goal is to improve soybean profitability by targeting research and development, education and promotion projects.

Meaty Studies

Capstone courses mesh academics, real world

 MARTHA FILIPIC

"We're going to be as brutally honest with you as we can today."

That's how Clint and Cody Rodabaugh of Rodabaugh Brothers Meats started their presentation to students in a Branded Meat Products class during spring semester.

It was music to the ears of instructors Steve Moeller and Tom Katen.

Moeller, professor of animal sciences, and Katen, guest lecturer and senior research scientist at Cargill Meat Solutions, led the class, designed to be a capstone course for meat science upperclassmen and a culminating experience for other students in the College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences.

The class is just one of the capstone courses offered to students in every major in the college.

"These classes are geared to help students integrate everything they learned in the courses that they have taken over the years to help them solve problems, to work in teams, and to view things in a holistic way," said Linda Martin, associate dean of academic affairs.


Brittany Janita, an animal sciences major, said she appreciated how candid the Rodabaugh brothers were with the class.

The brothers, both college alumni—Clint in 2006, Cody two years later—bought their business five years ago. Since then, they have upgraded equipment, boosted worker pay and responsibilities, and opened—and then closed—a second retail shop closer to the highway.

"It went three years and, basically, it broke even," Clint Rodabaugh said of the second store. "There was a lot of overhead. We realized it was not that great of a business venture."

Moeller said his goal with the class is to impress upon students the benefits of hard work and introduce them to the wide variety of roles they can play in the industry.

Janita said the class truly was a capstone

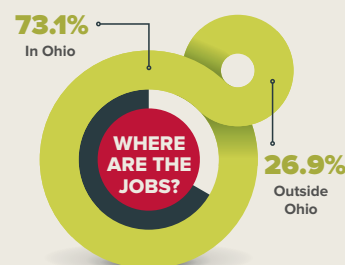
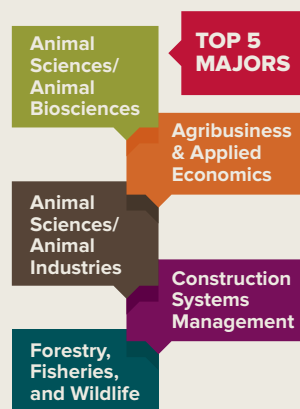
experience for her undergraduate years. "It's really pulling it all together. And it's showing us how you can use this information at the industry level out in the real world." 



Brittany Janita about the Branded Meat Products capstone course: "It's really pulling it all together."

CFAES STUDENTS ARE GOING PLACES

While the majority of our graduates stay in Ohio, they are going places. More than 92 percent are employed or accepted into graduate or professional school within six months of graduation. They are heading to 30 different universities or 289 different companies. And their average starting salary exceeds \$41,000 a year.




Students accepted positions in 33 states, Washington D.C., and in four other countries

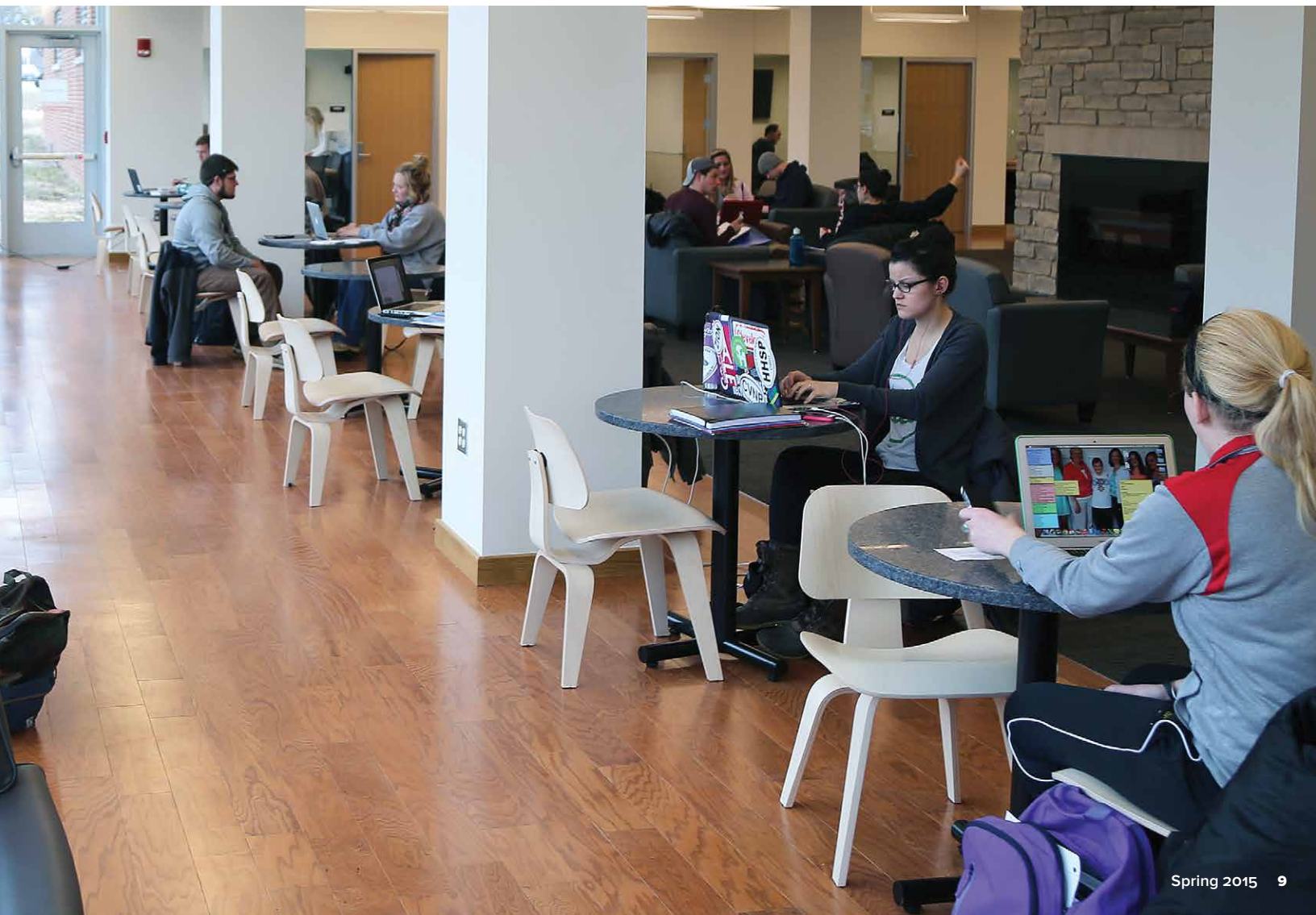
To read in more detail about the Department of Animal Sciences' Branded Meats Products class, see go.osu.edu/capstone. To learn more about the college's academic programs, see cfaes.osu.edu/students.



CENTERED ON SUCCESS

As soon as its doors swung open, students flocked to the Library and Student Success Center in the Agricultural Administration Building. Joey Brown (above), CFAES Student Council president, said the new space is “how a library should be — bright and wide open.” On February 20, Brown attended an opening ceremony with a ribbon cutting by Bruce McPherson, dean and vice president of Agricultural Administration; Joe Steinmetz, university executive vice president and provost; and Carol Diedrichs, vice provost and director of libraries. Besides abundant natural light, upholstered chairs and a fireplace to provide a comfortable atmosphere, the library offers plenty of computer stations as well as five collaborative spaces where small groups can gather, students can practice presentations, and potential employers can screen job candidates. “We have world-class programs with world-class faculty,” said Linda Martin, associate dean of academic affairs. “The new library is truly reflective of the cutting-edge education we offer.” More at go.osu.edu/cfaeslibrary. 





► WHEN THE DUST SETTLES ...



An ongoing need to replace and repair facilities exists within any college as vast and diverse as the College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences. Upgrades continue on the Wooster and Columbus campuses. The Williams Hall Greenhouse complex at the Ohio Agricultural Research and Development Center (OARDC) replaces a facility that was destroyed by a tornado in 2010. With more than 14,000 square feet of space for greenhouse projects, a computerized environmental control system and automated irrigation and fertigation, the facility allows researchers to do more, said Michelle Jones, D.C. Kiplinger Floriculture Chair. “We now have better temperature control, which is especially helpful when conducting experiments during the summer,” Jones said. Meanwhile, on the Columbus campus, Kottman Hall renovations are under way. The project replaces windows on the third, fourth, and parts of the second floors; replaces the roof; and upgrades the HVAC and chilled water systems. Those systems also serve Howlett Hall and the Parker Food Science building. **O**



► ALUMNI AWARDS

The Ohio State University College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences honored 14 outstanding individuals during its annual alumni awards luncheon March 7. Pictured here, from left are **Ralph Coffman**, CFAES Alumni Society president; **Dr. Bruce McPheron**, Vice President for Agricultural Administration and Dean; **Kevin Wendt**, BS 1990, Animal Sciences, Distinguished Alumni Award; **Joshua Jennings**, ASC 2000, BS 2000, Livestock Production and Management and Animal Sciences, Young Professional Achievement Award; **Dick Isler**, BS 1969, Animal Sciences, Distinguished Alumni Award; **Bryan Black**, ASC 1980, Swine Production, Distinguished Alumni Award; **Bob Gibbs**, ASC 1974, Swine Production, Distinguished Alumni Award; **C. Dale Baughman**, BS 1961, Agricultural Education, Distinguished Alumni Award; **Rob Rettig**, BS 1984, Agricultural Economics, Distinguished Alumni Award; **Wayne Impullitti**, ASC 1984, Nursery Management, Distinguished Alumni Award; **Glenn Himes**, PhD 1964, Agricultural Economics, Meritorious Service Award; **Renee Geyer**, ASC 2009, Turfgrass Management, Young Professional Achievement Award; and **Dale Leppo**, Meritorious Service Award. Not pictured are Marie Colmerauer, MS 2007, Food Science and Nutrition, Young Professional Achievement Award; Ruperto Sangalang, PhD 1982, Rural Sociology, International Alumni Award; and Maria Yost, BS 2003, MS 2005, Food Science and Nutrition, Young Professional Achievement Award. **O**

▶ TAKING ON THE STEM CHALLENGE



A group of middle school students from Circleville City Schools arrived at the Nationwide and Ohio Farm Bureau 4-H Center the morning of March 17. They were given pegboards, craft sticks, wire ties, dowel rods and a challenge: to build a structure that could support three gallons of water.

The students were there to kick-off off this year's the "Water Windmill Challenge," developed by Ohio 4-H specialist Bob Horton as a way to boost STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) skills.

The activity was selected by the National 4-H Council and Monsanto to be the 2015 4-H Ag Innovators Experience for eight Midwestern states. Approximately 10,000 students will take part in the challenge during the year, including some 1,200 Ohio youth.

"Farms can't rely on Mother Nature to provide all the water they need all time," Horton said. "So students in this challenge learn about using a wind-generating system that can power a water pump, which can provide water for crops and livestock during times of drought."

The challenge consists of creating a structure that can support the windmill system, whose weight is represented by a bucket of water. Working in small teams, the Circleville students experimented with a variety of designs and then put them to the test.

"We learned to work together and to listen to other people's ideas," said one of the students. "Their ideas may be better than yours, and if you put them together, you can really make something good."


Their teacher, Susan Search, said these activities help encourage science learning among youth.

"I constantly tell my students they need to be focusing on their math and science skills," she said. "I feel these skills will make them competitive, and they will be prepared for whatever they want to do later in life."

Watch a video about the challenge at go.osu.edu/2Sx. 

▶ HOMECOMING SAVE THE DATE

Clear the calendar for CFAES Homecoming 2015, October 9–10 at The Ohio State University. The College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences is planning to engage its alumni and friends with activities prior to the Ohio State Buckeyes game against the University of Maryland.


Programming on Friday, October 9, will include the Dean's State of the College address, alumni tours, breakfast, lunch, and the Parker Hall of Distinction induction ceremony and reception. Saturday, October 10, will see the return of the CFAES Homecoming Fallfest Tailgate, with catered barbecue, live music, and fond memories, in the hours before the football game. Events will take place at the Nationwide and Ohio Farm Bureau 4-H Center, 2201 Fred Taylor Drive, a short walk to Ohio Stadium. Alumni are advised to update their Ohio State University Alumni Association contact information at go.osu.edu/cfaeslogin and return regularly to stay on top of updates regarding the weekend events. Questions can be directed to the CFAES Development Office at 614-292-0473 between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. weekdays. 



▶ FIRST IN HER CLASS



A virologist in the Food Animal Health Research Program, Linda Saif has become the first woman to receive the prestigious Wolf Prize in Agriculture, awarded by the Wolf Foundation of Israel to scientists whose research has made a difference on the global stage. In awarding the prize, the Wolf Foundation noted how Saif's "discoveries of novel enteric and respiratory viruses of food animals and humans have led to her extensive

contributions of fundamental knowledge of the gut-mammary immunologic axis and have provided new ways to design vaccines and vaccination strategies." The award will be presented at a ceremony to be held at the Knesset—Israel's parliament—in Jerusalem on May 31. "The former recipients of this whom I know personally have made significant and original contributions to agriculture," Saif said. "It is a humbling experience and a major honor for me to be in the company of such esteemed colleagues and pioneers in their fields." 

They Saw It in Color

Hundreds Attend CFAES Recognition Banquet

 MATTHEW MARX

Students, staff, faculty, friends and family filled the Ohio Union Grand Ballroom to see 60 individuals honored during the 62nd annual CFAES Recognition Banquet April 16. “Should have seen it in color” was this year’s theme. Profiles of several award recipients follow:

Senior Award winner **Caitlyn Black**, a culinary science major from Canal Winchester, Ohio, has been an active member in many organizations within the College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences and to The Ohio State University. She was linked into the university’s Sphinx Senior Class Honorary. Also, she worked in the college’s Development Office and worked as a kitchen production assistant after completing an internship at Jeni’s Splendid Ice Creams.

Senior Award winner **Joey Brown** was president of the college’s Student Council this year. He also has served as vice president of the Buckeye Dairy Club and vice president of recruitment and of chapter affairs with FarmHouse International Fraternity. He was a member of the Academic Quadrathlon team that won the national championship for Ohio State during the American Society of Animal Science joint meeting last year in Kansas City. An animal sciences major from Edon, Ohio, he plans to attend the Ohio State College of Veterinary Medicine.

Second-year student **Mara Momenee** of Toledo, Ohio, is a Newcomb Scholar in her class. She is majoring in environment, economy, development and sustainability with a minor in entrepreneurship and a focus on local food networks. She



is a student ambassador for Local Matters and a member of the Undergraduate Student Government sustainability committee. Her career goal is to start a small local food business.

Senior Award winner **Caitlin Mullins** is also a Newcomb Scholar in her class this year.

A meat science major from Beavercreek, Ohio, she served as treasurer of the Sphinx Senior Honorary and as Back2School Bash financial manager for the Animal Science Community Alliance. She also was a member of Towers Honorary.

She intends to study stem cells and tendon generation in graduate school.

Senior Award winner **Megan Parsley** is a forestry, fisheries and wildlife

major from Hilliard, Ohio. She was previously recognized as a Newcomb Scholar at the 2012 and 2013 banquets. She intends to study amphibian conservation in graduate school.

Newcomb Scholar **Henry Peller**, of Roseville, Ohio, is a fourth-year student with a double major in sustainable plan systems and ecological design and development. He served as the Education and Projects coordinator at the Ohio State student farm and organized the Real Food Challenge and Student/Farmworker Alliance.

The event was dedicated to Linda and the late Dr. Ray A. Miller. “Your fingerprints are on the heart of this college now and for years to come,” banquet chair Stacie Seger told Mrs. Miller during the presentation.



WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Whether it's working for the America Farm Bureau Federation, John Deere Canada or Mississippi State University, these former Top Seniors thank their CFAES degrees for successful careers.



Tina Green

Top Senior, 1995

CFAES alumna **Tina Green** credits her undergraduate degree in Agricultural Education for providing her a strong understanding of the principles of teaching and learning that she uses almost daily in her career as the Associate Director in the Center for Teaching and Learning at Mississippi State University. She said she values working at a Land Grant institution because of her Ohio State roots and advises this year's Top Seniors to not be afraid to "step out of your comfort zone when looking for a career path." "If you had asked me in 1995 if I would be a 4-H agent in 2015, I would have told you 100 percent yes! However, now I can't imagine doing anything but what I am today. Remember your roots and reach for the stars."



Andrea Grube

Top Senior, 2000

Before CFAES alumna **Andrea Grube** earned her Bachelor of Science degree, majoring in Agribusiness and Applied Economics, she was active in the Agribusiness/National Agri-Marketing Association Club. Membership in the club helped her build leadership and presentation skills and land a career with John Deere some 15 years ago. She's now a territory sales manager for John Deere Canada. She is also currently a member of the Emerging Leaders group on the college's Volunteer Campaign Committee. Grube advises current Top Seniors to always be open to new opportunities. "Don't be afraid of the unknowns," she said. "It's also critical for you to build upon the relationships developed as CFAES students and to stay connected."



John Torres

Top Senior, 2005

John Torres graduated in 2005 from CFAES with a Bachelor of Science degree in Agriculture with a major in Agricultural Business and Applied Economics. Now, as the Director of Leadership Development for the America Farm Bureau Federation, Torres said he has been able to translate his degree into a rewarding position providing professional development for Farm Bureau staff and members nationwide. He is also currently a member of the Emerging Leaders group on the college's Volunteer Campaign Committee. His leadership advice to this year's Top Seniors: keep your thirst for learning. "There are limitless opportunities after graduation as long as you take the same curiosity to experience new things and apply it to your life and your career."

Each spring, 20 CFAES seniors are recognized with the Outstanding Senior Award, which recognizes students who have excelled throughout their undergraduate experience within and outside of the classroom through scholarship, leadership and community involvement. The students have also demonstrated personal and professional growth, and have a 3.0 or higher cumulative GPA.

► TEMPLE GRANDIN SHARES INSIGHTS AT OHIO STATE ATI FACILITY



When visitors to Ohio State ATI's beef cattle handling facility learn that it was designed by renowned animal behaviorist Temple Grandin, the question that almost inevitably follows is, "Has she ever been to the facility?" Now, at last, the answer is "Yes." As part of an April 17 appearance coordinated by ATI's Diversity and First Year Experience Committee, Grandin spent an hour talking about her design and taking questions from a group of about 50 livestock students at the facility, which was dedicated in 2012. She also spoke to a packed house in OARDC's 1,000-seat Fisher Auditorium, where she emphasized the value of hands-on experiences that allow students to "try on" careers. "The fabulous facility you've built is a great example of that," Grandin said in her evening presentation. April Rose, a second-year livestock science major from Conover, Ohio, has had experience working cattle in both ATI's old facility and the new one. "The old one was a nightmare. It had open sides, which the cattle didn't like, and we did a lot of pushing. It's so much easier at the new facility," where the curves and solid sides keep cattle moving calmly. Rose, who will be transitioning to Columbus in August, hopes for a career in the food side of the beef industry. "At the handling facility, Dr. Grandin said, 'Don't let bad become normal,' and that's applicable to so many aspects of the animal industry, from genetics to facilities. There is so much we can learn from her and her work." ◻

► EXEMPLARY SUPPORT



"He has committed far more to providing support and internships to students in CFAES than is normally expected in terms of personal and corporate resources." With these words, former Ohio State University Provost Joseph Alutto supported the nomination of Dale Leppo, of Tallmadge, Ohio, who received the Meritorious Service to the

College award last March. He is the chairman of Leppo Inc., which sells and rents off-road power equipment in northeast Ohio. "Our company has been hiring ATI students for over 30 years, and we started offering internships in the past 12 years," Leppo said. "ATI grads have the technical skills as well as the business and communication skills that we need in this service-oriented business to be successful." A member of Ohio State ATI's Key Advisory Committee, Leppo also provides \$20,000 a year to ATI to support scholarships and for other uses. Additionally, income generated by an endowment established in 1991 by Leppo in honor of his parents has funded 47 scholarships for power equipment technology students. ◻

Come for a Diploma, Leave With a Job

MAURICIO ESPINOZA

Ohio State ATI offers unique careers in high-demand fields

In 2012, Cody Bower enrolled in the very first class of the renewable energy program at The Ohio State University Agricultural Technical Institute (ATI). One year later, he had full-time employment in his field of study.

"After my first year, I enrolled in a summer internship through Ohio State ATI at the city of Wooster's Water Pollution Control Plant," said Bower, a graduate of Northwestern High School in Wayne County, Ohio.

"I was taught various laboratory procedures, and part way through that summer, I was offered a full-time position as an assistant operator. It was very amazing to be gainfully employed by my 20th birthday because of the opportunities granted to me by the renewable energy program."

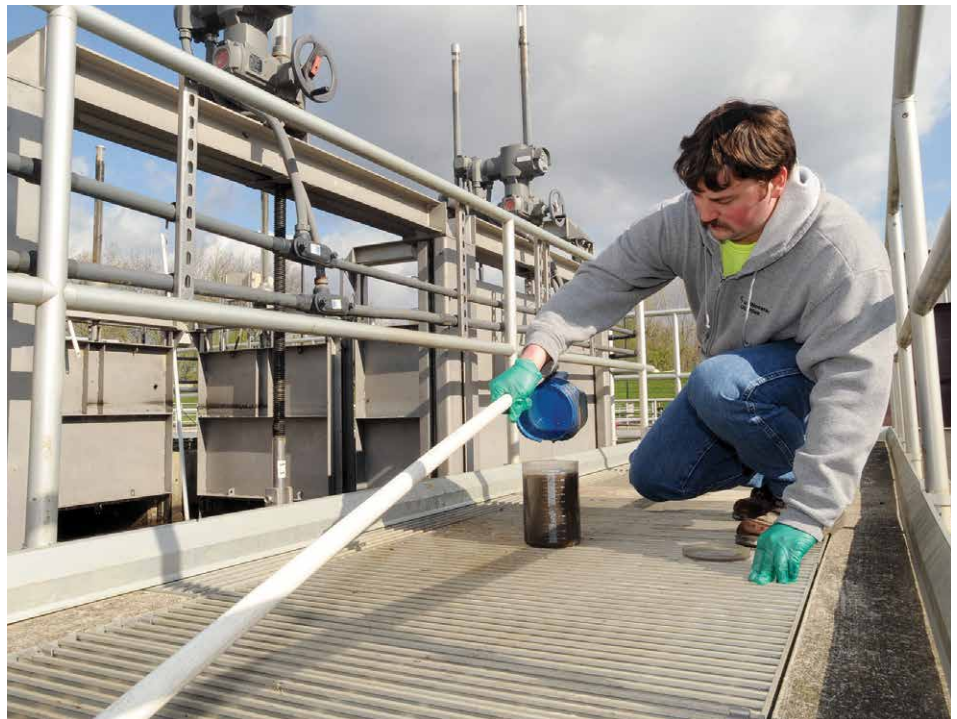
In the coming fall, Bower will receive his associate degree, along with a job and more than two years of professional experience.

Bower's journey is not unusual at Ohio State ATI, which is ranked No. 1 in the nation in the awarding of associate degrees in agriculture and related sciences.

In fact, about 70 percent of Ohio State ATI students who are planning to obtain full-time employment after graduation have a job in hand before they get their diploma.

One of 30 associate degrees offered by Ohio State ATI, the renewable energy program is unique within Ohio State and is the only degree program in the United States with a bioenergy component, said Russ Yoder, visiting assistant professor.

"Renewable energy is a new field,



An assistant operator at the city of Wooster's Water Pollution Control Plant, Cody Bower took advantage of internships offered by Ohio State ATI to gain full-time employment before graduation.

and an associate degree will get you in the industry," he said. "We appeal to students who want to do something different, who want to join a field with job opportunities and little competition, and who want to have the opportunity to be leaders at a young age."

Bower, who said he has always been fascinated with the possibility of becoming energy independent from fossil fuels, found

this program to be the perfect fit for him.

"I would encourage anyone who wants to be challenged and succeed to take part in ATI's renewable energy program," he said. "It will provide you with all the hands-on experience you could possibly want. This program is very flexible and gives you the possibility of going as far as you are willing to challenge yourself." **D**



Ohio State ATI students take part in industry internships, as the institute emphasizes a "learning by doing" approach.



Students at Ohio State ATI can graduate and join the workforce, or transfer to Columbus and complete a bachelor's degree.

Continuum

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The College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences has a \$150 million fundraising goal during the university's \$2.5 billion *But for Ohio State* campaign.

Progress toward CFAES fundraising goal as of March 31, 2015

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Bruce McPherson, Vice President for Agricultural Administration and Dean

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