

## Ohio Ecological Food and Farm Association Policy Program Fellowship Opportunity Announcement

The Ohio Ecological Food and Farm Association (OEFFA) has an immediate opening for OEFFA members to become more involved in our policy work to broaden their food and farm education and see how it is affected by policy. OEFFA is engaged in state and federal policy advocacy efforts toward our mission of a future where sustainable and organic farmers thrive, local food nourishes our communities, and agricultural practices protect and enhance our environment. This fellowship will give you first-hand experience in the food and farm policy world, and it helps illustrate how policy issues influence you and your communities.

The OEFFA Advocacy Fellowship is open to all Ohio-based farmers, ranchers, growers, processors (working with locally sourced agricultural products), and staff, regardless of advocacy experience. However, you must be an [OEFFA member](#) to apply.

The successful candidate will work on a team with OEFFA's Policy Director and in partnership with other bright and passionate members of the staff committed to furthering sustainable agriculture, family-scale farming, and the local food economy.

### **Position Summary**

This fellowship will support an Ohio farmer in completing a self-determined policy project, while helping them develop their understanding of the agricultural policy environment and their advocacy skills. The fellow will identify a topic area and project type that suits their own agriculture policy concerns and priorities, and OEFFA staff will help the fellow define the project, set goals, identify opportunities for professional development, make connections with key leaders, and deepen their knowledge of the policy making process. Examples of potential projects could include, but are not limited to, the development of a specific policy proposal, research and data collection on a persistent or emerging issue, issue campaign strategy development, or grassroots organization development. Proposals can focus on any state and/or federal policy area that the fellow considers important to furthering OEFFA's mission. Topic areas could include, but are not limited to, federal conservation programs, soil health, farm safety net reform, land use and infrastructure, farmland access, continuous improvement of the National Organic Program, research and education, local food systems investment, equity in state and/or federal program access, or food system consolidation, to name a few possibilities.

No previous policy advocacy experience is needed; OEFFA is seeking someone eager to learn more and contribute to our collective policy work. Our team will help the fellow use their project as the basis for learning how to develop policy expertise, tell their story, build a base of support, organize stakeholders, provide community support, and advocate for change. This is a highly customizable and collaborative fellowship; therefore, the details will be tailored to the individual goals of the fellow.

The fellowship will last for six months, with flexible start and end dates from late fall 2024 to spring 2025.

### **Position Responsibilities:**

*Specific responsibilities will vary depending on the details of the selected project, but generally speaking:*

- A willingness to share, learn, and question
- Alignment with [OEFFA policy's narrative](#), policy priorities, and theory of change
- Work proactively with staff and members to develop and implement a policy project
- Meet regularly with OEFFA Policy Director and other members of the Policy Team on a schedule that is conducive to the fellow
- Conduct research related to the project topic area
- Discuss work with state and/or national partners and participate in coalition, work groups, and network meetings as appropriate
- Travel within Ohio or out of state as needed for work with the policy team
- Meet with policymakers to discuss issue areas
- Create policy communications content for OEFFA's external communications
- Develop education and outreach materials
- Complete a final "product," the details of which will depend on the nature of the project
- Effectively communicate and advance OEFFA's mission
- Represent OEFFA in a professional and ethical manner
- Commitment to a just and sustainable food system

#### **Qualifications:**

- Current Ohio residence
- An active [OEFFA membership](#)
- Actively engaged in farming, ranching, or processing an Ohio sourced value-added product, either as a business owner or an employee
- A passion for sustainable agriculture and an interest in federal or state agricultural policy
- Commitment to the mission and goals of OEFFA, and the act of organizing for social change
- Creative thinker, self-directed, and the ability to work well with people from diverse backgrounds
- Legally eligible to work in the United States and must have and maintain a valid Ohio driver license, clean driving record and a reliable vehicle
- Access to virtual meeting applications (Zoom, Teams, Google Meet) - either by phone or computer, preferably with access to a camera
- Access to phone
- Access to email
- Personal computer (owned or OEFFA provided)

**Compensation and Benefits** – A stipend of \$3,000 paid in monthly installments of \$500 for 10 hours per month (60 hours total throughout the course of the fellowship). Up to 24 additional hours may be billed at \$50 an hour for work beyond the contracted monthly hours. The fellowship includes a budget to support travel, conference fees, supplies, and expenses. This is a time-limited contract position and is not eligible for employee benefits.

#### **Application Process**

To apply, please fill out the application form by end of day on Monday, November 4, 2024:

<https://forms.gle/FUfpWthW1Dc56QES6>

The form will ask the applicant to tell us a bit about themselves, their involvement with OEFFA, what sort of project they wish to pursue, and contact information for two references (indicate relationship). Applicants do not need to have their project fully developed but should provide enough information for our staff to understand its general goals, why it is important to the applicant, and who it will serve. Our supportive staff will work with the selected fellow on the project details.

***About OEFFA***

Founded in 1979, the Ohio Ecological Food and Farm Association (OEFFA) cultivates a future in which sustainable and organic farmers thrive, local food nourishes our communities, and agricultural practices protect and enhance our environment.

*OEFFA is committed to providing equal employment opportunities to all individuals, regardless of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability, genetic information, pregnancy, or any other characteristic protected by law. This policy applies to all aspects of employment, including hiring, promotion, termination, compensation, benefits, and training.*

*At OEFFA, we believe that a diverse and inclusive workplace drives innovation and growth. We strive to create an environment where everyone feels valued and respected. All employment decisions are based on qualifications, merit, and business needs.*

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