







## **GET OUTSIDE THIS SUMMER!**

eaturing organic and sustainable farms across Ohio and into West Virginia, and educational and social events, this annual series opens the door for farmers, educators, and eaters to learn about agriculture in person and online.



For the latest information, links to register, and more, visit <u>oeffa.org/farmtours</u>

Events will take place rain or shine. Guests should dress appropriately; hats, sunglasses, long pants, closed toe walking shoes, and sunscreen are recommended. Tours involve standing and moderate walking; visitors with physical limitations or other concerns should contact the tour host in advance. For everyone's safety, guests should keep children with them at all times. Please do not bring pets to the tours unless otherwise noted. For virtual events, a computer with internet, audio, and microphone access will be required; cameras are encouraged. Discussions and any classroom materials will be presented in English. Closed captioning and auto-transcription will be provided. Please contact OEFFA if you have concerns regarding your ability to participate or access these resources.

Pre-registration for farm tours is highly encouraged, but not required. All farm tours and pasture walks are free thanks in part to grants OEFFA receives from private and public sources. Please consider making a donation at oeffa.org/donate or see page 14.

Event organizers do not endorse any commercial products displayed or discussed on tours. Organizers and hosts are not responsible for accidents. Event participants will be on private property at their own risk.

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COVER PHOTO: THE TRANQUILITY RANCH

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Presented by:

### **Ohio Ecological Food and Farm Association Common Greens** FairShare CSA Coalition

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OEFFA.ORG/ **FARMTOURS** 

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# Ohio Ecological Food and Farm Association



(614) 421-2022, oeffa@oeffa.org, oeffa.org

For more than 40 years, OEFFA has used education, advocacy, and grassroots organizing to promote local and organic food systems. OEFFA presents the state's largest sustainable agriculture conference; offers educational events for beginning and established farmers; publishes a quarterly newsletter; provides organic certification services and farmer technical assistance; and advocates for policies that protect and benefit food and farm systems.

Participant support is available to those who intend to attend an OEFFA farm tour and who identify as Black, Indigenous, or Persons of Color, farmers in their first ten years of production, and farmers who are actively seeking land. Learn more at oeffa.org/farmtours.

### **OEFFA FARM TOURS**

## Grassfed Beef and Avian Habitat Tour

Saturday, June 7 • 10 a.m.-Noon

### **Marshy Meadows Farm**

Mardy Townsend 7533 Noble Rd., Windsor, OH 44099



ASHTABULA CO.

This 113-acre, women-owned farm was certified organic by OEFFA in 1996. Their old, slow way of making hay has fostered habitat for threatened ground nesting birds, particularly eastern meadowlark and bobolink. Funding from the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) was used to fence cattle out of the creek, drill a water well, and bury water lines reaching all pastures for the rotationally grazed beef cattle. Part of Marshy Meadows' conserved acreage will soon be for sale, so attendees are invited to see a working farm, vibrant wildlife habitat, and explore land access possibilities.

**Registration:** Register for this free tour at oeffa.org/farmtours.

Directions: From I-71 N, take exit 220 for I-271 N toward Erie and continue onto I-271 N for 25.1 miles. Keep left to stay on I-271 N, following signs for 271 N/Erie for another 9.3 miles. Take exit 34 to merge onto US-322 E/Mayfield Rd and continue for 26.9 miles. Turn left onto State Rte 534 N and take a slight right onto Noble Rd. The farm will be on the left in .5 mile.

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# Grass Based Sheep Farm and Forage ID Pasture Walk

Saturday, June 14 • 10 a.m.-Noon

### The Tranquility Ranch

Julie Sharp
3000 Township Road 138 NE, Somerset, OH 43783
thetranquilityranch.com



PERRY CO.

The Tranquility Ranch is a woman-owned farm raising grass-fed sheep. They use rotational grazing practices and multi-species grazing for parasite control. This is a two-part tour that starts with a tour exploring the systems and practices of Tranquility Ranch, then is followed by a forage ID pasture walk led by Megan Burgess, state grazing specialist with the Ohio Natural Resources Conservation Service.

**Registration:** Register for this free tour at oeffa.org/farmtours.

**Directions:** From Columbus/I-70E, take exit 132 for OH-13 toward Newark/Thornville. Turn right onto OH-13 S/Jacksontown Rd. and continue for 13.6 miles. At the traffic circle, take the first exit onto W Main St., then turn left onto OH-668 S/S Market St. and continue on OH-668 S for 4.1 miles. Turn right onto Township Rd 138 NE. The farm will be on the right in .1 mile. Follow signs.

### Multi-Urban Farm Tour

Saturday, June 21 • 10 a.m.-Noon

**NECIC Urban Farm** (First site)

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311 Bowman St., Mansfield, OH 44903

### NECIC RiCi Urban Agricultural Site (Second site)

1155 S Olivesburg Rd., Mansfield, OH 44905 Walter Bonham and Josiah Remy necic-ohio.org/programs/food-network/urban-farm richlandgro-op.com/necic-urban-farm



RICHLAND CO.

The North End Community Improvement Collaborative (NECIC) has two large urban farms located within city limits in Mansfield. The NECIC offers a popular farmers' market, hosts middle and high school school field trips, helps with grant research, and provides hands-on apprenticeship and community engagement. They are a part of the Mansfield Microfarm Project, a community-university collaborative to create economic

development through sustainable microfarming (small-plot, high-intensity organic agriculture) in post-industrial urban spaces. Their main objective is to establish a sustainable community-based training program for aspiring beginning farmers.

Registration: Register for this free tour at oeffa.org/farmtours.

**Directions:** From I-71 N, take exit 169 for Rte. 13 toward Mansfield/Bellville. Turn left onto Rte. 13 N and continue for 4.5 miles. Use the left lane to turn right onto S. Main St. Turn left onto Glessner Ave. After almost .5 mile, turn right onto Sturges Ave. Continue straight onto Bowman St. for .5 mile and the farm will be on the left.

**Parking:** Farmer and farmhands will be on site to help with parking and to direct toward the second farm site.

# Transitioning to Organic Berry Farm Tour

Saturday, July 19 • 10 a.m.-Noon

### **Shady Oaks Farm**

Chris and Leslie Burdette 5790 Manilla Creek Rd., Poca, WV 25159 shadyoaksblueberry.com





Shady Oaks Farm is a berry and daffodil farm started in 1997 by Chris and Leslie Burdette. Winners of the 2011 Conservation Farm Award for Putnam County, Chris and Leslie have





continued to manage their farm using sustainable practices and will be certified organic in 2025. They specialize in organic blueberry container plants, daffodils, and u-pick berries. Blackberries should be ripe just in time for this tour!

Registration: Register for this free tour at oeffa.org/farmtours.

**Directions:** From US-23 S, at Chillicothe take US-35 E for 88.5 miles toward West Virginia. Continue on US-35 E into West Virginia before turning left onto County Rte 817/2. After .4 mile, turn right onto WV-817 S/Winfield Rd and continue for 2.4 miles. Take a slight right onto the ramp to Eleanor/Poca and continue right onto WV-34 N for .8 mile then turn left to continue on WV-34 N for 6.9 miles. Turn right onto Manilla Creek Rd after 2.3 miles. The farm will be on the right.

**Parking**: Vehicles with all- or four-wheel drive are needed to travel up the farm's driveway. Vehicles with two-wheel drive can park at the road and people can be shuttled up the driveway.



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SHADY OAKS FARM

# Organic Grazing Pasture Walk

Saturday, September 27 • 9-11 a.m.

#### **Finch Creek Farm**

Finkes Family 1477 US Route 68 S, Xenia, OH 45385

Established in 1992, Finch Creek Farm has 300 acres of certified organic land with grass-fed and -finished cattle, pastured meat chickens, and pastured laying hens. Reinhold and Melissa Finkes prioritize animal health and conservation through rotational grazing on the farm. Learn about their innovative business structure, which includes both direct sales and a CSA program, and how they made the transition to organic.





GREENE CO





Extension



COLLEGE OF FOOD, AGRICULTURAL,

**Registration:** Register for this free tour at oeffa.org/farmtours.

**Directions:** From I-71 S, take exit 65 for OH-435/US-35 toward Washington CH/Xenia, then turn right onto OH-435/Old U.S. 35. Use the right two lanes to take the ramp onto US-35 W and continue for 17.7 miles. Take exit 53 for US-68 toward Home Ave/Wilmington then turn left onto US-68 S. The farm will be on the right in 2.1 miles.

# Ohio Soil Health Week Farm Tour

Wednesday, November 12 · 3-5 p.m.

**Brandt Family Farm, Walnut Creek Seeds** 6100 Basil Western Rd. NW, Carroll, OH 43112 regengrain.com

OSHI Ohio Soil Health Initiative





FAIRFIELD CO

Brandt Family Farm grows corn, soybeans, wheat, and a variety of other cereal grains sold through the on-farm cover crop business, Walnut Creek Seeds. For more than 50 years, the Brandt family has been committed to soil conservation and building healthy soil. The guided tour will focus on soil health, cover crops, no-till practices, and heritage grains.

**Registration:** Register for this free tour at oeffa.org/farmtours.

**Directions:** From I-70 E, take exit 105A to merge onto US-33 E toward Lancaster. Continue on US-33 for 12.3 miles before turning left onto Pickerington Rd. After .5 mile, turn right onto Basil Western Rd. and continue for 2.1 miles. Turn left onto Carroll Northern Rd, continue for .5 mile, then turn right onto Basil Western Rd NW. The farm will be immediately on the left.

## **OEFFA CHAPTER EVENTS**

OEFFA's chapters are interest- and region-based groups of people interested in sustainable and organic agriculture. Many chapters independently coordinate tours in their region. Learn more at *oeffa.org/chapters* and see their events at *grow.oeffa.org/events*.

#### **SOUTHWEST OHIO OEFFA CHAPTER:**

## Bowyer Farm Tour

Friday, June 27

#### **Bowyer Farm**



NARREN CO.

Bowyer Farms' 600 acres belong to the Cincinnati Zoo, and include wetland restoration, native plant sales and propagation, beekeeping, animal feed harvesting, cheetah run area, and sun and sheep farming.

**Registration:** If you are interested in joining, contact Cori Yaeger at *iroc1949@icloud.com* with "SWOEFFA tours" in the subject line. Guest numbers are limited. More tour information will be shared directly with guests.

# Organic Farm at Bear Creek Sunday, August 24





**Organic Farm at Bear Creek** 

This 51-acre vegetable operation grows and processes ingredients into soups, pasta sauces, dressings, jams, and dipping oils. This tour will cover how Sandra and Jeff Ashba's farm incorporates growing organic vegetables and operating a cannery.

**Registration**: If you are interested in joining, contact Cori Yaeger at iroc1949@icloud.com with "SWOEFFA tours" in the subject line. Guest numbers are limited. More tour information will be shared directly with guests.

#### **OEFFA GRAIN GROWERS CHAPTER:**

# Chapter Meeting and Potluck

Friday, August 1

John Jacobs & Son

meeting and potluck.



12640 County Road S, Napoleon, OH 43545

The OEFFA Grain Growers Chapter is dedicated to the exchange of ideas and information for organic grain production, processing, and marketing. The chapter welcomes anyone with an interest in organic grain production to attend. This will be a

**Details:** More information will be shared closer to the date at oeffa.org/farmtours. Questions can be directed to bburgess@hirzel.com.

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# OEFFA WORKSHOPS AND SPECIAL EVENTS

# Farmer Help Shop

Third Monday each month • 1-3 p.m.

June 16, July 21, August 18, September 15, October 20, November 17, December 15

### Virtual

OEFFA's team of educators is available to assist farmers at any stage of their journey. Whether you are making the switch to organic, are already certified, or have questions about sustainable agriculture practices, OEFFA can share guidance and support. Drop in virtually on the third Monday of each month to talk or listen to professional sustainable agriculture educators with farming queries and questions.

Registration: Register for free at oeffa.org/support.

# Policy and Pints

Thursday, July 17, Thursday, July 31, Friday, November 14, Thursday, August 21



These informal gatherings are a chance for community members around Ohio to connect with staff from OEFFA's Policy program and discuss food and farm policy issues. You'll be able to learn about the work they do to advance state and federal policy, see how you can plug into these advocacy efforts, and engage with other changemakers! Policy and Pints offers an opportunity to network with food and farm policy leaders from across the state. They are free and open to anyone interested in sustainable and organic agriculture and getting involved in policy advocacy.

Southeast Ohio-Thursday, July 17 • 4:30-6:30 p.m.

#### **West End Ciderhouse**

234 W Washington Street Athens, OH 45701





ATHENS CO

# Northwest Ohio—Thursday, July 31 • 5-7 p.m. Findlay Brewing Company

213 E Crawford St. Findlay, OH 45840







### Southwest Ohio—Thursday, August 21 • 5-7 p.m.

#### **Turner Farm**

7400 Given Rd.,
Village of Indian Hill, OH 45243





HAMILTON CO.

**Registration:** Space is limited. Register for this free gathering at oeffa.org/farmtours.

### Northeast Ohio-Friday, November 14 • 6-8 p.m.

### **Bookhouse Brewing**

1526 W 25th St Cleveland, OH 44113







CUYAHOGA CO.

# OEFFA at the Ohio Pawpaw Festival

Friday-Sunday, September 12-14

### **Ohio Pawpaw Festival at Lake Snowden**

5900 US Highway 50 Albany, OH 45710

The Ohio Pawpaw Festival is a fun-filled, educational community event celebrating one of America's largest native tree fruits, the pawpaw. Visit *ohiopawpawfest.com* to learn more about an informational session organized by OEFFA, "Making Sense of Labels: What Does Organic Really Mean?"

**Registration:** Register for the festival and learn more at *ohiopawpawfest.com*.

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oeffa.org/donate

Or mail a check to: 150 E. Wilson Bridge Rd. Suite 230, Worthington, OH 43085

# Making a Difference

OEFFA believes farmers' and eaters' learning experiences should be accessible, diverse, and inclusive, addressing real-life issues, experiential knowledge, and personal and farm growth.

For these reasons, all of the events in this series are free.

Please consider donating to help OEFFA grow the next generation of farms and farmers. Thank you.





### Common Greens

hello@commongreensohio.org, commongreensohio.org



Common Greens, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, works to build vibrant and inclusive marketplaces where food producers earn a decent living, farmland is kept in sustainable production, and everyone has access to healthy local foods.

# **COMMON GREENS FARM TOURS**

# Flower Farming with Adrianne Roach

Friday, August 15 • 11 a.m.

### **Owl's Nest Flower Farm**

550 Gleason Rd., Piketon, OH 45661 owlsnest.farm



Join flower farmer Adrianne Roach for a morning of "pick your own stems" and simple bouquet making at Owl's Nest Flower Farm. Discuss the best plants for starting your own cutting or butterfly garden, how to manage pests using sustainable farming methods, and where to get started in flower farming for profit. Owl's Nest practices low- and no-till farming using organic methods for healthy soils and beautiful local flowers that are grown not flown.



All equipment and materials will be provided. Guests should bring sunscreen, repellent, water, and sensible shoes they can get dirty.

## Small Farm Mushroom Production

Friday, September 5 • 10 a.m.

### **Last Bardo Farm**

7400 Dyer Rd., Mt. Sterling, OH 43143 lastbardofarm.com



MADISON CO

Interested in starting a small farm based mushroom operation? Join Leslie and Stacey Smith of Last Bardo Farm to view their on-farm mushroom production, tour their fruiting room and processing space, and learn about freeze drying methods of culinary mushrooms. Last Bardo Farm is a family-owned mushroom farm dedicated to bringing the freshest, highest-quality mushrooms to Central Ohio. The farm is passionate about growing unique, flavorful varieties in service to the local culinary community with mushrooms that are handpicked for their exceptional taste and nutritional value.



### FairShare CSA Coalition

(234) 231-8166 beth@csacoalition.org, csacoalition.org



FairShare CSA Coalition builds resilient food communities throughout the Midwest by investing in farmers and empowering eaters. Through outreach and education, they are supporting thriving farms, vibrant communities, and fresh food for all.

### **FAIRSHARE EVENT**

# Ins-and-Outs of Trellising

Sunday, June 8 • 1:30-3:30 p.m.

#### **Green Table Gardens**

1469 Hook Rd., Xenia, OH 45385 greentablegardens.com





Join an exploration of high tunnel trellising methods for cucumbers and tomatoes with farmer Stephen Mackell at Green Table Gardens. Stephen is experimenting to see which methods are effective with the least amount of labor on his <sup>2</sup>/<sub>3</sub>-acre organic market garden. Get a first-hand view of the methods, hear what Stephen is finding to work best for his production system, and consider what might work on your farm!

Registration: Register at eventbrite.com/e/ins-and-outs-oftrellising-registration-1310146546589.



# Equipping a Diversified Vegetable Farm

Sunday, June 22 · 2-4 p.m.

### **That Guy's Family Farm**

394 State Route 380, Clarksville, OH 45113 thatguysfamilyfarm.com





CLINTON CO.

Guy and Sandy Ashmore have built out their array of equipment over the course of several decades as organic vegetable farmers. As Conard and Kelsey, the next generation of Ashmores, transition to leadership, they are evaluating what is essential and what could use modification. Join this conversation with the Ashmore family on what systems have worked for them, what changes they are anticipating, and which equipment is essential to their success.

Registration: Register at

eventbrite.com/e/equipping-a-diversified-vegetable-farm-registration-1310293425909.

# What to Expect When Transitioning to No-Till

Sunday, August 24 · 2-4 p.m.

### **Birdsong Farm**

146 S Chillicothe Rd., Aurora, OH 44202 birdsongfarmohio.com





PORTAGE CO.

Dedicated organic farmers' market and CSA farmer Matt Herbruck has farmed in both Maine and Ohio over the years and transitioned his Portage county farm, Birdsong Farm, to no-till practices. Learn about his process of transitioning to no-till, how long it took, what challenges he experienced, and the rewards he's seeing now. Tour the farm, ask questions, and gain some insights on how no-till could play a role in your farming systems.

Registration: Register at

eventbrite.com/e/what-to-expect-when-transitioning-to-no-till-registration-1310399422949.







Ohio Ecological Food and Farm Association 150 E. Wilson Bridge Rd. Suite 230 Worthington, OH 43085

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