



Organic Food & Farming Education & Research



The Direction of Organic Agriculture: Future Growth, Challenges, & Research Needs

Thursday, November 1, 2012

**Shisler Conference Center
1680 Madison Avenue,
Wooster, OH 44691**

The OFFER program of The Ohio State University is sponsoring a summit of organic leaders to discuss the future of organic farming, opportunities for growth, and the anticipated needs for research and education.

National and regional organic leaders will present forward-looking perspectives on the industry.

Speakers will discuss future market trends, consumer demand, policy and regulatory issues, production/processing challenges, and the proposed [Organic Research and Promotion Program](#). The summit will a) provide organic producers/processors with information about the future business environment, b) help university researchers/educators anticipate areas of future needs for the industry, as well as funding prospects, and c) create opportunities for partnerships among organizations, their members, and university personnel engaged in organic research and education.

Featured speakers:

- Laura Batcha, Executive Vice-President, [Organic Trade Association](#).
- Maureen Wilmot, Executive Director, [Organic Farming Research Foundation](#).
- Brian Snyder, Executive Director, [Pennsylvania Assoc. for Sustainable Agriculture](#).
- Mike Anderson, Sustainable Agric. Educator, [Ohio Ecological Food & Farm Assoc.](#)
- Deborah Stinner, Panel Manager, [USDA-OREI](#) and former head of OFFER.

Poster session:

To encourage the exchange of ideas, all attendees are invited to share information about their research or organization by exhibiting posters or displays. Indicate in your registration whether you will be bringing a poster.

Registration:

Attendance is free, but due to limited space, participants must register online in advance at <http://oardc.osu.edu/offer/registration.asp>. A locally sourced lunch will be provided.

For meeting agenda or more information, go to oardc.osu.edu/offer/pageview/news.htm or contact Kathy Bielek at Bielek.4@osu.edu or 330-202-3528.