

FROM THE GROUND UP

MARCH 2025
PROJECT
UPDATE

Making Climate Smart Agriculture Work For Farmers

FARMER LEADERSHIP

Our Farmer Leaders have been driving this project forward with assistance from the research and engagement coordinators, and we're excited for the upcoming field season! They've recruited over 50 farmers in nine nodes across OH and MO. These farmers have identified climate-smart agricultural practices (CSAPs) to explore and the outcomes they want to measure. The farmer nodes exemplify the range of farm size, type, and experience in OH and MO, and their diverse research topics rightly reflect their different priorities.



WHAT ARE THE NODES RESEARCHING?

OHIO:
Specialty Crop Farms: Impacts of cover crops on soil health
Grain Farms: Impacts of alternative fungicide use patterns
Organic Grain Farms: Harvest vs. non-harvest of winter forage
Dairy Farms: Winter forage vs. traditional cover crop
Grain Farms: Determining best cover crop management to plant corn green

MISSOURI:
Small Ruminant Farms: Comparing seed treatments for pastures
Cattle/Sheep Grazers: Comparing nitrogen fertilizers for pastures
Grain Farms: Impacts of cover crops on soil health & yield
Specialty Crop Farms: Root crops as cover crops

WHAT HAVE THE WORKGROUPS BEEN DOING?

On-farm research: Conducting farmer interviews. Developing research protocols and sampling schematics in collaboration with farmer leadership.

Off-farm research: Planning focus groups in Wayne Co., OH and Lafayette Co., MO in May 2025 to gather information about how local farmers, landlords, government, and ag businesses view CSAPs.

Evaluation: Developing and sending surveys to 2500 farmers to gauge knowledge, attitudes and use of CSAPs. Creating a framework to monitor the project's progress and goals.

National markets: Researching existing carbon and climate smart market opportunities in MO and OH. Building and connecting with the Policy and Market Advisors team.

Education: Recruiting summer interns and planning work placements including on-farm research, off-farm research, farm placements, and extension. Planning a fall curriculum for interns.

Extension: Connecting with local ANR extension educators to spread the word about FTGUp. Recruiting communications interns to tell project and farmer stories.

RECENT EVENTS

Winter Summit, Columbus OH (Mar 4-5)

Over this day and a half, the Farmer Leadership Team (FLT) and Project Management Team (PMT) members had their first face-to-face interactions, reviewed the Tier 1 on-farm research plans, and connected with our Policy and Market Advisors to review existing potential carbon and climate smart markets and policies that could be relevant to our farmers.

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Stakeholder Advisory Board

Missouri Department of Natural Resources
Missouri Climate Center
Ohio Soybean Association
Nester Ag LLC
OEFFA
Missouri Corn Growers Association
The Nature Conservancy
American Farmland Trust
NRCS
Missouri Farm Bureau
Missouri Fertilizer Control Board
USDA Midwest Climate Hub
Ohio Corn & Wheat
Missouri Soybean Merchandising Council

STAKEHOLDER BOARDS

We held successful "Kick-Off" meetings with our stakeholder boards in October and December 2024. Our SAB members represent diverse organizations at the regional and state levels and are helping to identify ways to coordinate our work with other projects and initiatives. Our PMA members represent private companies, non-profits and policy makers and are helping to connect our findings to national markets and policies.

Policy and Market Advisors

Jim Moseley
Bayer Crop Science
Field to Market
National Center for
Appropriate Technology
Foundation for Food &
Agriculture Research
Keystone Policy Center
The Nature Conservancy
Purdue University

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