

# Ohio Nutrition Incentive Network

## 2022 Annual Convening

Thursday, October 13th, 2022  
12pm–4:30pm



**OHIO**  
NUTRITION  
INCENTIVE  
NETWORK





The Ohio Nutrition Incentive Network is pleased to welcome partners from across the state for the 2022 Ohio Nutrition Incentive Network Annual Convening.

Presenters will share their work in three Session Tracks: Food System Policy, Healthy Food Systems, and Community-Based Assets, painting a picture of the public-private partnerships and grit that create Ohio's local food system.

The Convening will offer 9 sessions via Zoom throughout the afternoon. [Register for sessions here](#). All sessions will be 45 minutes in length, followed by a 15-minute break. All sessions will be recorded and shared after the event.

## 12pm: Keynote Presentation

Join Executive Director of Produce Perks Midwest Tevis Foreman, Ohio Senator Matt Dolan, and Franklin County Commissioner Erica Crawley in a vision of opportunity and resilience for Ohio's food system.

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## 1pm: Basics of Nutrition Incentives

Not sure how Ohio's Nutrition Incentive programs work or how they can support your community? Learn about the suite of programs that increase food access for Ohioans.

Presenters:

- **Kadie Donahoe**, Program Integrity Supervisor, Ohio Department of Health
  - **Amanda Osborne**, Community Development Educator, Ohio State University Extension Cuyahoga County
  - **Autumn Trombetta**, MS, RD, Population Health & Nutrition Program Manager, Ohio Department of Aging
  - **Sarah Kuhns**, Advocacy & Administrative Coordinator, Ohio Association of Foodbanks
  - **Erin Molnar**, Data and Evaluation Manager, Produce Perks Midwest
  - **Debbie Serenius**, RDN, LD, Director of Health Partnerships, Produce Perks Midwest
  - **Ally Farrell**, Program Coordinator, Produce Perks Midwest
  - **LaVelle Betts**, Manager of Community Relations, Buckeye Health Plan
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## 2-3:45pm: Session Tracks

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## 4pm: Happy Hour Reflection

Join OHNIN member Rachel Tayse for a fun half hour to network with other Convening goers and reflect on the day's presentations.

TRACK

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## Food System Policy

### 2pm: USDA Programs & Their Impact

How do the Farm Bill and United States Department of Agriculture grant programs impact Ohioans? Learn from federal food policy experts and recipients of some of these grants.

**Presenters:**

- **Ben Feldman**, Executive Director, Farmers Market Coalition
- **Amalie Lipstreu**, Policy Director, Ohio Ecological Food and Farm Association
- **Emily Diefendorf**, Manager, Northside Farmers Market
- **Maddie Chera**, Director, Greater Cincinnati Regional Food Policy Council

### 3pm: Ohio Food System Policies

The Ohio Food Policy Network discusses its 4 priority policy measures and the Children's Defense Fund Ohio shares learnings from its SNAP Community Engagement Report.

**Presenters:**

- **Amy Bodiker Baskes**, Founder, Amy Baskes Consulting
- **Katherine Ungar**, JD, Senior Policy Associate, Children's Defense Fund-Ohio

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## Healthy Food Systems

### 2pm: Healthy Foods & Healthcare Systems

Learn how some of Ohio's major healthcare providers address food and nutrition in their communities, and why food access matters in healthcare.

**Presenters:**

- **Gina Hemenway**, Executive Director, Community Health, Mercy Health Cincinnati
- **Courtney Hudson**, MPH, Community Outreach and Education Manager, Akron Children's Hospital
- **Anne Leach**, MS RDN, LD, Director, Clinical and Community Nutrition, Sodexo Healthcare at University Hospitals

### 3pm: Public Markets

Two of Ohio's Public Markets give presentations around the role Public Markets serve in the urban food system.

**Presenters:**

- **Morgan Taggart**, Director, FARE | Food Access Raises Everyone
- **John Bird**, Director of Market Management and Operations, Corporation for Findlay Market

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## Community-Based Assets

### 2pm: Farmers' Markets

Tune in for a panel discussion with farmers' markets going an extra mile to serve their communities.

**Presenters:**

- **Rebekah Ferro**, Neighborhood Engagement Coordinator/Kamm's Corners Farmers Market Manager
- **Amber Jones**, MPH, Director of Community Health, Old Brooklyn Community Development Corporation
- **Mary Beth Knight**, Director, MyWhy

### 3pm: Outside the Box Solutions

Presentations from non-profit and for-profit organizations that create flexible solutions to address community needs.

**Presenters:**

- **Anna Kiss Mauser-Martinez**, Executive Director, City Fresh
- **Sasha Miller**, Owner, Purplebrown Farm Store
- **Tom Redfern**, Director of Sustainable Agriculture, Rural Action

# Presenter Bios

## Keynote:

### **Tevis Foreman**

Executive Director, Produce Perks Midwest, has over a decade of experience addressing systems-level issues of population health and public policy, with a focus on healthy, equitable and resilient food system development. Tevis serves on a variety of national, state and local councils, committees, and networks focused on systems-level transformations and is actively engaged in advocacy initiatives. He holds a bachelor's degree in Philosophy and Religion from Wilmington College and a Master's degree in Sustainable Development and Global Leadership from Hawaii Pacific University.

### **Senator Matt Dolan**

State Senator, Ohio Senate, is currently serving his second term in the Ohio Senate, representing portions of Cuyahoga County and currently serves as the Chairman of the powerful Finance Committee. He is currently a partner at the law firm of Thrasher, Dinsmore & Dolan, where he represents business clients in a variety of matters, in addition to handling municipal law and real estate matters, including zoning and land use issues. He has been an adjunct professor at the Case Western Reserve School of Law, as well as Kent State University's Geauga Campus. He is a former Chief Assistant Prosecutor for Geauga County and Assistant Attorney General for the State of Ohio. Senator Dolan also served three terms in the Ohio House of Representatives, representing Ohioans of the 98th House District, which included parts of Cuyahoga County and Geauga County. Prior to joining the legislature, Senator Dolan was active in the community, where he served on several boards, including the Greater Cleveland Chapter of the American Red Cross, the Cleveland Museum of Natural History, and LifeAct, among others and also sat on the Cleveland Foodbank Strategic Planning Committee. Senator Dolan is a graduate of Gilmour Academy, Boston College and Case Western Reserve School of Law. He lives with his wife, Jessica, his son, Sam, and his stepson, Maddox, in Chagrin Falls.

### **Commissioner Erica Crawley**

Franklin County Commissioner, is originally from Youngstown and has spent much of her life making a difference by serving others and giving people a voice through her service in the U.S. Navy and in her work advocating on behalf of children and families with the Cuyahoga County Job & Family Services, YMCA Head Start/ Early Head Start Program, Court Appointed Special Advocates for Children (CASA) and the Black Child Development

Institute. While in law school at Capital University, Commissioner Crawley served as a Junior Fellow for the Family and Youth Law Center and Day-Vice President of the Black Law Student's Association among many other leadership positions. Upon graduating from law school, she was awarded the 2017 Graduate of the Year for the Black Law Student's Association, Capital University Law School Dean's Ambassador Award and Order of the Barristers. Commissioner Crawley is the mother of twin girls. She enjoys spending time with them and traveling with family and friends.

## Basics of Nutrition Incentives:

### **Kadie Donahoe**

Program Integrity Supervisor, Ohio Department of Health, WIC/FMNP, serves as the Program Integrity Supervisor for the Ohio Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) program at the Ohio Department of Health. In her role, she oversees the WIC Farmers' Market Nutrition Program's (FMNP) overall planning, implementation, and operations. Additionally, Kadie oversees WIC retail vendor and participant compliance to ensure all of WIC's 1,200 contracted vendors and participants are in compliance with the Ohio Administrative Code (OAC) and federal regulations.

### **Amanda Osborne**

Community Development Educator, Ohio State University Extension Cuyahoga County, has been working in local food systems for over ten years, gaining experience in both Washington, D.C. and Cleveland. Amanda is actively involved in the implementation and management of a number of farmers' market-based nutrition incentive programs in Cleveland, including Produce Perks, WIC Perks, TANF, and Produce Prescription. Amanda serves on the Ohio Nutrition Incentive Network and the Ohio Food Policy Network.

### **Autumn Trombetta**

MS, RD, Population Health & Nutrition Program Manager, Ohio Department of Aging, has over 20 years of dietetics practice, recently joined the Ohio Department of Aging earlier this year as the Population Health and Nutrition Program Manager. In this role, Autumn serves as statewide administrator for Older Americans Act Nutrition Services (Title III-C) and Disease-Prevention and Health Promotion Programs (Title III-D), as well as Ohio's Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition Program. Prior to joining Ohio Department of Aging, Autumn was combating food insecurity at the neighborhood level. She led the creation of a county-level, multi-sectoral food action plan and secured over \$2M annually in national, state, local, and private funds to make healthy and local food accessible and affordable all while supporting the local economy. She is

a registered dietitian and received both her bachelor's and master's degrees from The Ohio State University.

### **Sarah Kuhns**

Advocacy & Administrative Coordinator, Ohio Association of Foodbanks, joined the Ohio Association of Foodbanks as their Advocacy & Administrative Coordinator in 2021 after graduating with honors from University of Dayton with a Bachelor's degree in Political Science and Philosophy. In her role, she is able to combine her passion for advocating for those experiencing poverty and her skills of writing, researching and public speaking. Prior to her current position, she worked at the Coalition on Homelessness and Housing in Ohio. She resides in Columbus, Ohio and enjoys traveling, reading, exploring new coffee shops and restaurants, and working out in her free time.

### **Erin Molnar**

Data and Evaluation Manager, Produce Perks Midwest, is passionate about local agriculture, food production and food systems equity and equally passionate about data and analytics, and efficient and effective process creation and management—a perfect combination for her role at Produce Perks Midwest. Erin previously worked on the ground as a market manager, as well as a Produce Perks Midwest regional lead. Erin holds a degree in Anthropology from Kenyon College, where her love and appreciation for small, sustainable agriculture first took root. Erin lives just outside Akron, OH and enjoys cooking, gardening, reading, rehabbing her house and taking bicycle adventures near and far.

### **Debbie Serenius**

RDN, LD, Director of Health Partnerships, Produce Perks Midwest, is the Director of Health Partnerships with Produce Perks Midwest. She is a founding member of the PPM team and currently leads PPM's PRx produce prescription programming across the state. Additionally, as a registered dietitian she provides medical nutrition therapy and nutrition counseling to individuals in Dayton, Ohio.

### **Ally Farrell**

Program Coordinator, Produce Perks Midwest, has been working as a Program Coordinator with Produce Perks Midwest since January 2020. She is passionate about connecting healthy food resources to individuals who need it most and supporting market managers to make offering these resources as easy and efficient as possible. She celebrates knowing that this work is supporting communities and local farmers across Ohio. Prior to working with Produce Perks Midwest, she was an AmeriCorps VISTA that assisted with Produce Perks administration at the Warren Farmers Market in Northeast Ohio. It is one of

her greatest joys that she still is able to connect resources to her community in her hometown.

### **LaVelle Betts**

Manager of Community Relations, Buckeye Health Plan, has been a member of Buckeye Health Plan team for more than 16 years. His primary responsibilities include serving as a bridge between our community leaders. LaVelle collaborates heavily with our community partners across the state of Ohio. His projects include Buckeye Fresh!, which increases access to healthy, affordable food and addresses key determinants of health. He is responsible for establishing and securing sponsorship opportunities for our community partners. LaVelle enjoys working with both our internal team and external partners to establish important partnerships for the benefit of the community. Vision: Buckeye Health Plan is committed to transforming the health of the community, one person at a time.

## **USDA Programs & Their Impact:**

### **Ben Feldman**

Executive Director, Farmers Market Coalition, has a long history in non-profit leadership, within the food system and at the Farmers Market Coalition itself. Prior to his current role as FMC's Executive Director, Ben worked as the organization's Policy Director and previously served as a board member. Ben's career includes helping found the California Alliance of Farmers' Markets, running the California Market Match Program, championing equitable food policy at the local, state and national level, and running the first farmers market on a Kaiser Permanente campus.

### **Amalie Lipstreu**

Policy Director, Ohio Ecological food and Farm Association, has more than 25 years of public and social service experience and focused on agriculture and food systems starting in 2002 after receiving a Master of Environmental Policy from Kent State University. She advocated for and subsequently directed the Ohio Food Policy Advisory Council and the Office of Sustainable Agriculture at the Ohio Department of Agriculture. She joined OEFFA in 2014, focusing on food systems policy at the state and federal levels. Her work at OEFFA is focused on policy to enable sustainable and organic farmers to thrive, increase the availability of local food to nourishes our communities and agricultural practices that protect and enhance our environment. She participates in and serves in leadership in state and national coalitions working in partnership toward this vision.

### **Emily Diefendorf**

Manager, Northside Farmers Market, has been with the Northside Farmers Market (NFM) for 9 of its 20 years. She is passionate about food and maintaining access to local, healthy food for everyone, while supporting local vendors. With the onset of COVID-19 stores had empty shelves, while NFM's food producers continued to work to make a living and to feed their communities while dealing with supply chain issues. This solidified Emily's vision for a stronger, local food economy, starting with the Northside Farmers Market. NFM received a 3-year USDA Farmers Market Promotion Program grant in 2021 to meet some of these needs. The grant work revolves around three key areas: Bringing in new and maintaining current customers, Supporting new and existing vendors, and Creating a plan for the market's future. Emily is laying the groundwork for the market to thrive for another 20 years.

### **Maddie Chera**

Director, Greater Cincinnati Regional Food Policy Council, Green Umbrella, convenes partners across the Greater Cincinnati Region to share information and collaborate on advocacy and program work as members of the Food Policy Council. Maddie leverages data, communications, and funding to direct and monitor collective impact toward a vision of a resilient regional food system. She brings over a decade of domestic and international experience as an educator, researcher, and nonprofit team member to her work, along with a PhD in Anthropology from Indiana University Bloomington, with a focus on food, the environment, and culture.

## **Ohio Food System Policies:**

### **Amy Bodiker Baskes**

Founder, Amy Baskes Consulting, over the past 25 years, has had a rich experience as a leader, fundraiser and facilitator of organizations working for progressive change. Amy is particularly passionate about and experienced in effecting positive changes in our food system and has held national leadership positions at Chefs Collaborative (MA), Stone Barns Center for Food and Agriculture (NY) and the Organic Farming Research Foundation (CA). In 2009, she founded Amy Baskes Consulting to advance strategic food policy and fundraising projects for a variety of organizations around the country. Amy resides in Columbus, Ohio, and serves as a steering committee member for the Ohio Food Policy Network.

### **Katherine Ungar**

JD, Senior Policy Associate, Children's Defense Fund-Ohio, works to advance policies and programs to improve child nutrition in the state, with a goal of ending childhood hunger. She currently leads the Hunger-Free Schools Ohio Campaign, a collaborative of over 40 organizations, whose mission is to ensure all students in Ohio have access to free healthy school meals. She also works on poverty reduction strategies, such as the Child Tax Credit and Earned Income Tax Credit. Prior to her work in public health, Katherine worked as an associate in the litigation department of Ice Miller, LLP. She completed both her Bachelor of Arts and Juris Doctorate degree at The Ohio State University.

## **Healthy Foods and Healthcare Systems:**

### **Gina Hemenway**

Executive Director, Community Health, Mercy Health Cincinnati, leads an interdisciplinary team focused on programs and partnerships that address critical community health needs and the underlying social dynamics impacting health in the communities served by Mercy Health Cincinnati. Prior to her work with Mercy Health, she supported a variety of different healthcare transformation programs at the Health Collaborative in Cincinnati, OH and the Harvard-affiliated Joslin Diabetes Center in Boston, MA. Gina has a Bachelor of Arts in Business Management from Wittenberg University and Master of Public Policy and Administration from Northwestern University. She has three young children who keep her continuously inspired (and exhausted).

### **Courtney Hudson**

MPH, Community Outreach and Education Manager, Akron Children's Hospital, has been with Akron Children's Hospital since 2014 when she began as the Traumatic Brain Injury Prevention Coordinator. She obtained her MPH from Kent State University as part of the Consortium of Eastern Ohio Master of Public Health program. Prior to coming to Akron Children's, Courtney worked at both the Akron and Summit County health departments in epidemiology, health education and substance abuse prevention. In her current role, she oversees community outreach and education efforts including the hospital's Outreach Events Committee which vets over 200 requests annually. She also manages the Reach Out and Read program which is an early literacy program administered at the hospital's 36 primary care locations. Over 83,000 new, age-appropriate books are prescribed annually by pediatricians and nurse practitioners during well child checks for children ages 6 months to 5 years. She also assists with the hospital's initiatives around food security including the launch of the Food Farmacy pilot program and the Feeding Health project in collaboration with the Akron-Canton Regional Foodbank.

## **Anne Leach**

MS RDN, LD, Director, Clinical and Community Nutrition, Sodexo Healthcare at University Hospitals, is a Registered Dietitian Nutritionist with over 17 years of experience in the food and nutrition industry. She is the Director of Clinical and Community Nutrition for Sodexo Healthcare at University Hospitals. In her role Anne is responsible for coordinating programs and processes to ensure the highest level of care is provided to patients across the UH health system. She also leads the Food As Medicine initiative across University Hospitals with a strong emphasis on food insecurity programming. Her Food As Medicine work focuses on increasing access to fresh, healthy foods and improving the nutrition and health of disadvantaged individuals and families. Prior to Anne's current role she was the Community Program Director/Wellness Dietitian at University Hospitals where she developed the vision and led the ongoing efforts to deliver market changing community support programs. Anne holds a Master of Science degree in nutrition from Kent State University and a Bachelor of Science degree in dietetics from Ohio University. She is an active member of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics. Anne is also a certified yoga instructor.

## **Public Markets:**

### **Morgan Taggart**

Director, FARE | Food Access Raises Everyone, has been working at the intersection of food systems, community-driven development and policy in Cleveland for the last 18 years. She is currently the Director of FARE | Food Access Raises Everyone, a collaborative initiative that works with community members and grassroots organizations to improve access to healthy food using a community participatory framework and an equity-based approach.

### **John Bird**

Director of Market Management and Operations, Corporation for Findlay Market, joined the Corporation for Findlay Market in January 2021. As the Director of Market Management and Operations John is responsible for facility management, daily operations, tenant relations, and capital improvements at Findlay Market.

## **Farmers' Markets:**

### **Rebekah Ferro**

Neighborhood Engagement Coordinator/ Kamm's Corners Farmers Market Manager, West Park Kamm's Neighborhood Development, has been a resident of the West Park Neighborhood in Cleveland, OH since 2001. A Cleveland

State University alumnus, she has been working in non-profits for most of her professional life. She recently became the manager of the Kamm's Corners Farmers Market in August after previously serving as an AmeriCorps VISTA for WPKND. She enjoys visiting Cleveland landmarks and attending concerts and festivals!

### **Amber Jones**

MPH, Director of Community Health, Old Brooklyn Community Development Corporation, understands that a shift from a person's individual health toward whole person health with a focus on the social and environmental conditions in which they live is needed. As the Director of Community Health at Old Brooklyn Community Development Corporation (OBCDC) she has the opportunity to address the social determinants of health across the spectrum of need from short- and mid-term service, to long-term policy and advocacy roles. A graduate of the University of Michigan, Amber also holds a master's degree in Public Health from Case Western Reserve University with a focus in Health Promotion and Disease Prevention. During her time at CWRU, she discovered a passion for community-based health through the lens of community development, including how a person's environment affects their health. Through her current and previous roles at OBCDC, Amber utilizes those skills and interests to develop comprehensive community health strategies in partnership with local and national organizations.

### **Mary Beth Knight**

Director, MyWhy, has been working with underserved children in the Cincinnati area for more than 25 years, having served on the Board of Big Brothers/Big Sisters, with the Cincinnati Reds as a fitness/nutrition consultant/program creator at the Urban Youth Academy for 10 years, and teaching PE/Health in Cincinnati inner city schools all prior to her joining the non profit organization MyWhy in 2018. Prior to covid, MyWhy focused on sports and nutrition for students lacking in both opportunity and access. During Covid MyWhy shifted its focus to providing fresh produce to students and their families. Since then MyWhy has once again shifted, keeping its focus on produce for students and their families, but has moved from a "band-aid" approach of providing produce to a long term, sustainable solution based model through which they are equipping student living in area food deserts with the knowledge of how to grow, harvest, prepare and share fruits and vegetables. The "teaching kids to fish" model includes hosting regular farmers markets on/near school properties where MyWhy hosts Urban Agriculture programs. Improving food equity is MyWhy's top priority, as it will ensure that students are receiving the vital nutrients they need to improve their health, academic and life outcomes.

## **Outside the Box Solutions:**

### **Anna Kiss Mauser-Martinez**

Executive Director, City Fresh, is a steadfast believer that what happens in our communities matters, and that it is our duty as citizens of the earth to help build a more just, equitable, and sustainable world. She devotes her time and energy on projects and causes that focus on building connection, community, and securing a healthier future for all. This includes working to ensure adaptability in the face of climate change through community supported agriculture as the executive director at City Fresh. Anna Kiss' hobbies and habits alike keep an eye focused on harnessing collective power to work toward shared goals. You can find her playing with vegetables, knitting at the beach, or hiking with her partner and two young adult sons.

### **Sasha Miller**

Owner, Purplebrown Farm Store, and her husband, opened Purplebrown Farm Store in Peninsula, OH, in October 2021. In addition, Sasha has operated purplebrown farmstead since 2016, raising pork, mushrooms, perennial vegetables & fruit trees on 12 certified organic acres in Boston Heights. In 2020 the farm stand in the barn expanded to incorporate more than a dozen local producers. The idea grew again, and now Purplebrown Farm Store sells products from more than 50 producers within a 60-mile radius, right in the heart of the Cuyahoga Valley National Park. Purplebrown Farm Store aims to create a point of access for local producers & consumers, that seek ecologically & ethically produced food. Sasha's background includes a Masters in Public Administration with a focus on Economic Development, a Permaculture Design Certification, B.A. in International Studies & Religion with a focus on human & environmental rights.

### **Tom Redfern**

Director of Sustainable Agriculture, Rural Action, has been with Rural Action since 2004. Prior to that he spent 20 years working in commercial and public horticulture, including managing a \$1 million nursery in Dayton, Ohio, and working as a Horticulturist for Miami University in Oxford, Ohio. As Program Director, Tom leads a team of 3 staff and 7 National Service Members to implement programming that builds economic opportunities for under-resourced farmers and consumers in Ohio's 32 Appalachian counties. This includes farmer identified educational and technical assistance needs, beginning farmer support, support of the Chesterhill Produce Auction, and regional food access initiatives for food desert remediation, farm to School and produce prescriptions. Tom has successfully received and managed numerous federal and private foundation awards. Federal awards include

multiple USDA Sustainable Agriculture Research & Education, USDA Local Food Promotion Program, USDA Farm to School, USDA Specialty Crop Block Grant, and USDA Rural Business Enterprise/Development Grants. Tom is a graduate of Hocking College, and Ohio University where he studied Natural Resources Management, Botany, and Environmental Geography. Tom spent 2 years in the U.S. Peace Corps where he helped to develop agro-forestry curriculum for the Kenya Ministry of Energy.