

We invite the Congressional Candidate to complete this survey based on priorities from our community. The [Ohio Ecological Food and Farm Association](#) (OEFFA) was founded in 1979 and cultivates a future in which sustainable and organic farmers thrive, local food nourishes our communities, and agricultural practices protect and enhance our environment. Annually, we put on a conference that brings about 800 people together, in addition to farm tours, workshops, and webinars. We also offer organic certification and transition support, and advocate with farmers for their policy needs.

These questions have been cultivated with various food and farm advocates and organizations from across Ohio. We will share the answers publicly on our website so our members and partners can be informed on how their needs resonate with candidates.

Please reach out to policy@oeffa.org with any questions.

1. What will you do to mitigate the ongoing effects of the changing climate on our food system, support those most impacted by these changes, and shift our agricultural sector toward greater resilience?
2. The resilience in our future food system depends on the health of our environment to grow food. What would you do to support farmers in caring for their land and the environment to grow healthy food?
3. The median age of farmers is 58 and rising. To foster a resilient food system, we must make entering and succeeding in the agricultural sector more feasible. What would you propose to improve access to successful farming and food system careers and support workers' long-term resiliency in these fields?

4. We are consistently losing farmland in Ohio and across the country at an alarming rate. How do you feel about this reality, and what policies do you feel are important to increase land access for beginning farmers, preserve farmland, and protect our future food security?

5. While there are some programs that enable farmers to make a living wage, much more that can be done to support them. How do you see policy playing a role to support the health, success, and viability of farmers and their farm businesses?

6. How will you support building out the infrastructure needed to allow farmers, farmers' markets, and small retailers to more easily integrate online SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) orders so they can better compete with large retailers and support local farmers?

7. Food processing infrastructure bolsters the resilience of our food system, creates jobs, and builds wealth in local communities. Yet, we sorely lack enough meat processing and vegetable packaging facilities in Ohio. How would you approach building out the network of Ohio's food processing facilities?
8. Due to the consolidation of the food industry, market access for local farmers is consistently at risk. How would you support local farmers feeding their communities, level the playing field, and combat the increasing corporate control of our food and agricultural systems?
9. In many areas of Ohio and across the country zoning policies increase the distance between where food is grown and where it is consumed. How can policy shape better local food scaling options for producers and consumers to support local economies?
10. How do you personally support local farmers and contribute to your local food economy?

