

<b>Title:</b>	<b>The BEAN Project (Beginning Entrepreneurs in Agricultural Networks)</b>		
<b>Sponsoring Agency</b>	NIFA	<b>Project Status</b>	COMPLETE
<b>Funding Source</b>	Non Formula	<b>Reporting Frequency</b>	Annual
<b>Accession No.</b>	223546	<b>Grants.gov No.</b>	GRANT10576052
<b>Project No.</b>	OHON0011	<b>Proposal No.</b>	2010-03166
<b>Project Start Date</b>	09/01/2010	<b>Project End Date</b>	08/31/2013
<b>Reporting Period Start Date</b>	09/01/2010	<b>Reporting Period End Date</b>	08/31/2013
<b>Submitted By</b>	Wendy Michel	<b>Date Submitted to NIFA</b>	11/20/2013

**Program Code:** BFRDP

**Program Name:** Beginning Farmer and Rancher

**Project Director**

Marie Barni  
216-429-8200  
barni.4@osu.edu

**Recipient Organization**

EXT - OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY EXTENSION  
1960 KENNY RD  
COLUMBUS, OHIO 43210-1016  
DUNS No. 832127323

**Performing Department**

OSUE County Operations

**Co-Project Directors**

{NO DATA ENTERED}

**Departments**

{NO DATA ENTERED}

**Non-Technical Summary**

The BEAN Project (Beginning Entrepreneurs in Agricultural Networks) Farms, farmland and farmers are disappearing in Northeast Ohio and the Greater Cleveland area. Since 2005, there has been a 20% loss in the number of farms and 29% loss in number of acres of farmland. Fewer and fewer farmers are producing food, further and further from the regions consumers. And less than 1% of the farmers represent a minority race. In addition, high rates of unemployment continue to plague the area, mostly affecting minorities and people with disabilities. And increasing rates of chronic disease exacerbated by the abundance of urban food deserts speak to the need for healthier food options for all residents. Despite these challenges, the development of new economic development strategies, such as farming, holds much promise in reversing these trends. The increasing number of immigrants and refugees with strong agrarian roots, greater interest by many in locally grown foods, and widely accepted knowledge that urban areas are the food production hubs of the nation provide further testament to the need for small scale farming enterprises. Cleveland, with 3,300 acres of land available and 89% of residents purchasing local foods, is a national innovator in urban land use planning and urban agriculture. Urban garden district zoning, small livestock legislation, grants for urban farmers, and the creation of an agricultural overlay district are just some of its more recent accomplishments that portray a committed community and political will that supports agriculture as a means of transforming the once rust belt into a thriving green belt. The BEAN Project plays a key role in building capacity to create and sustain economically viable small farm enterprises in the Greater Cleveland area through its unique outreach to socially disadvantaged residents (minorities, immigrants, refugees, and limited resource adults with developmental disabilities) and its ability to educate beginning farmers using methods sensitive to ones culture, language and learning style. Innovative models of teaching and learning lay the foundation. Hands-on learning modules, field trips, specialty workshops, educational materials in plain and native languages, mentorship opportunities, and model land lease agreements are some of the key strategies to create an effective learning continuum. This continuum aligns to the projects overall goal to contribute to the local food economy and promote social change by increasing the number of minority and underserved farmers who own and/or operate economically and environmentally sound small farm enterprises. Participants can and will become a part of a communitys social capital and add value to the overall health and well-being of the community. This project also has the potential for long range impacts that can inform a regional food system, enhance the self-sufficiency of traditionally underserved populations, and provide a platform for further replication that expands its scope and reach in a culturally and linguistically congruent manner.

**Accomplishments**

**Major goals of the project**

PROJECT GOAL: To contribute to the local food economy and promote social change by increasing the number of immigrant and minority farmers who own and/or operate economically and environmentally sound small farm enterprises. PROJECT

**OBJECTIVES:** 1) Increase in the number of small farm enterprises in the Greater Cleveland Area; 2) Increase in farm (land) tenure through model land leases; 3) Increase in the number of socially disadvantaged and immigrant farmers; 4) Increase in economic output (sales) of small farms; 5) Increase in agricultural output (types and volume of crop production) of small farms; 6) Decrease the average age of a farmer; and 7) Increase knowledge of crop production, intensive farming methods, and microenterprise business management. **OUTPUTS:** BFRDP curriculum (plain language and cultural enhancements), BFRDP training program (including new, applied models of teaching and learning), urban farming mentorship model, marketing products, land lease contracts, business plans, best practices for growing cultural/specialty crops in an urban area, outcomes of performance assessments and illustrative case study, replication plans for other areas/States, and other project-generated educational materials/resources.

### **What was accomplished under these goals?**

- 98 participants completed the 12-week Market Gardener Training Program for beginning farmers. Of the total participants: 38.6% were below the national average age of farmers; 38.3% were women; 35.6% represented a minority race (non-Caucasian); 31% considered themselves to be 'currently farming' (inclusive of being active in a community garden); and 66% were not farming but planned to farm within six months. Three (3) veterans completed this training program.
- Thirty-one (31) new agricultural micro-enterprises were created as a result of the Market Gardener Training Program.
- 102 participants completed the 6-week Refugee/Immigrant Farm Training Program. Of the refugee population, participants represented 8 nationalities and spoke 12 native languages. Forty percent (40%) of the refugee participants were currently farming, yet 60% of those not currently farming intended to start farming within one six months.
- 79 adult consumers with developmental disabilities completed a 4-week, applied Vocational Agriculture Training Program related to their Cleveland Crops urban agriculture enterprise. 78% are male and 22% are female. 54% represent a minority race (non-Caucasian). 46% of the consumers are now employed full-time by Cleveland Crops. 100% of these individuals are below the national average age of farmers.
- The Cuyahoga County Board of Developmental Disabilities (subaward) cultivated nearly 20 acres of land for their Cleveland Crops enterprise which resulted in \$135,000 in sales of fresh, local produce.
- Catholic Charities (subaward) cultivated 2.5 acres of land (two urban farms) which resulted in \$14,970 in sales of fresh, local produce. Fourteen (14) refugee farmers jointly tended to these farms.
- A variety of specialty crops were grown and sold; Varieties included: Asian greens, Homazi, Mizuna, Komatsuna, Choyet and Asian melons and gourds.
- OSU Extension maintained a half-acre demonstration site on Kinsman Farm; Over 850 pounds of vegetables from this site were donated to an assisted housing complex for seniors/disabled.
- 32 hands-on agriculture workshops were held to complement classroom training programs.
- 5 beginning farmers were matched with a mentor.
- 9 field trips were held and attended by 210 beginning farmers.
- One 6-acre incubator farm, Kinsman Farm, was created in Cleveland's Urban Agriculture Innovation Zone. This farm supports 13 beginning farmers with their agricultural enterprises, including produce production, specialty crop production, bee keeping and free-range chickens.
- 2 high tunnels were erected on Kinsman Farm to extend the growing season for the beginning farmers on this site.
- \$200,000 from state and local sources were obtained to enhance grant-funded objectives, providing fixed infrastructure needs for Kinsman Farm.
- 11 tours of Kinsman Farm were held for national and international visitors.
- 82 volunteers assisted with site preparation and maintenance of Kinsman Farm.
- Over 500 students from local schools visited Kinsman Farm to learn about agriculture.
- 20 new partnerships enhanced the BEAN project's scope and goals.

### **What opportunities for training and professional development has the project provided?**

- Three (3) training programs were created: Market Gardener Training Program (12-week), Refugee/Immigrant Farm Training Program (6-week), and Vocational Agriculture Training Program for adults with developmental disabilities (4-week).
- 32 hands-on agriculture workshops were held to complement classroom training programs.
- 9 field trips were held and attended by 210 beginning farmers.
- Site visits were conducted, as needed, by the Agriculture & Natural Resources Educator to provide on-site technical assistance and education.

### **How have the results been disseminated to communities of interest?**

An annual report is created each year and shared with project partners and a diverse cadre of stakeholders, including local and state government offices. Project specific outcomes are listed on the county's annual highlights document that is shared with state and federal legislators. Project outcomes are also disseminated through the county's Food Policy Coalition. Project highlights were shared by local officials during special events and through press releases.

**What do you plan to do during the next reporting period to accomplish the goals?**

{Nothing to report}

**Participants****Actual FTEs for this Reporting Period**

Role	Faculty and Non-Students	Students within Staffing Roles			Computed Total by Role
		Undergraduate	Graduate	Post-Doctorate	
Scientist	0	0	0	0	0
Professional	1.7	0	0	0	1.7
Technical	0	0	0	0	0
Administrative	0	0	0	0	0
Other	0	0	0	0	0
Computed Total	1.7	0	0	0	1.7

**Target Audience**

Individuals with developmental disabilities, refugees, immigrants, and minority populations (including women) were the target audience for this project. Specialized training programs (Market Gardener Training Program, Refugee/Immigrant Farm Training, and hands-on agriculture training for individuals with developmental disabilities) were held and tailored to the target audiences' needs. All trainings were complemented by workshops and field trips.

**Products**

Type	Status	Year Published	NIFA Support Acknowledged
Conference Papers and	Accepted	2013	YES

**Citation**

Building Better Bridges: Opportunities and Inclusion for All. 2013 Tri-State Diversity Conference, Hebron, KY.

Type	Status	Year Published	NIFA Support Acknowledged
Websites	Published	2012	NO

**Citation**

Snook, Debby. (September 21, 2012). Urban farms are taking root in Cleveland, bringing home surprising harvests. [http://www.cleveland.com/taste/index.ssf/2012/09/urban\\_farms\\_are\\_taking\\_root\\_in.html](http://www.cleveland.com/taste/index.ssf/2012/09/urban_farms_are_taking_root_in.html)

Type	Status	Year Published	NIFA Support Acknowledged
Other	Published	2011	YES

**Citation**

USDA Know Your Farmer/Know Your Food Compass Case Study. (USDA grant listed as one of the case studies.) [http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/usda/usdahome?contentidonly=true&contentid=KYF\\_Compass\\_Case\\_Studies\\_8.html](http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/usda/usdahome?contentidonly=true&contentid=KYF_Compass_Case_Studies_8.html)

Type	Status	Year Published	NIFA Support Acknowledged
Other	Published	2013	YES

**Citation**

The 2013 Ohio Sustainable Farm Tour. (Kinsman Farm was a tour stop.) <http://www.oeffa.org/pdfs/farmtour2013.pdf>

Type	Status	Year Published	NIFA Support Acknowledged
Websites	Published	2010	YES

**Citation**

Cleveland adds another six-acre urban incubator farm. (USDA grant cited)  
Green City Blue Lake:  
<http://www.gcbl.org/blog/2010/10/cleveland-adds-another-six-acre-urban-incubator-farm>

Type	Status	Year Published	NIFA Support Acknowledged
Websites	Published	2010	YES

**Citation**

New \$1.1 million program to create urban farms in Cleveland's Kinsman neighborhood. Cleveland.com:  
[http://blog.cleveland.com/metro/2010/10/new\\_program\\_to\\_create.html](http://blog.cleveland.com/metro/2010/10/new_program_to_create.html)

Type	Status	Year Published	NIFA Support Acknowledged
Websites	Published	2012	NO

**Citation**

Urban farms are taking root in Cleveland, bringing home surprising harvests. Cleveland.com:  
[http://www.cleveland.com/taste/index.ssf/2012/09/urban\\_farms\\_are\\_taking\\_root\\_in.html](http://www.cleveland.com/taste/index.ssf/2012/09/urban_farms_are_taking_root_in.html)

Type	Status	Year Published	NIFA Support Acknowledged
Other	Published	2012	YES

**Citation**

Mrosko, Tom. (2012, Volume 4, Issue 2). An Old Way of Life in a New World. Welcoming the Stanger by Migration and Refugee Services, Cleveland Catholic Charities Health & Human Services, 5.

Type	Status	Year Published	NIFA Support Acknowledged
Websites	Published	2012	YES

**Citation**

Weber, Chris. (October 18, 2012). Overgrown: What happens when urban farms get too big?  
<http://grist.org/food/overgrown-what-happens-when-urban-farms-get-too-big/>

Type	Status	Year Published	NIFA Support Acknowledged
Other	Published	2011	YES

**Citation**

Kisner, Corrine. National League of Cities/Center for Innovation and Research. 2011. Developing a Sustainable Food System. Enabling Urban Agriculture. Beginning Farmer and Rancher Development Program award noted as fostering entrepreneurial opportunities for residents in Greater Cleveland (p. 2, 3).

Type	Status	Year Published	NIFA Support Acknowledged
Other	Published	2011	NO

**Citation**

Inside Business Magazine. July/August 2011. City of Cleveland, Burten, Bell, Carr Development Corporation, Ohio State University Extension and Rid-All Green Partnership names as finalists for the Team NEO/Cleveland Plus New Economic Development Practice Award for the Urban Agriculture Incubator Pilot Project.

**Other Products****Product Type**

Educational Aids or Curricula

**Description**

Three (3) training programs were created: Market Gardener Training Program, Refugee/Immigrant Farm Training Program, and Vocational Agriculture Training Program for adults with developmental disabilities.

**Product Type**

Models

**Description**

A draft Coop model and bylaws have been created for use by beginning farmers on Kinsman Farm.

**Product Type**

Survey Instruments

**Description**

Pre- and post-assessments were created and used with both the Market Gardener Training Program and Refugee/Immigrant Farm Training. A year-end evaluation tool was created for and completed by the project's two subrecipients. This tool evaluates the economic and other benefits (i.e. health) by project participants.

**Product Type**

Other

**Description**

Land use protocols were developed to serve as a shared use document by beginning farmers on Kinsman Farm. Topics covered include: Cover crops and rotation, compost application, weed management, insect management, disease management, irrigation, soil testing, and site improvements.

**Changes/Problems**

{Nothing to report}