

Exploring Urban Agriculture in Lucas County Ohio

No single definition for **Urban Agriculture**. Some common themes:

- Growing plants and raising animals, distribution and marketing within and around cities
 - It is often smaller animals such as poultry or goats, and not larger livestock which require more space and land
 - Many different crops can be grown in the city, although an urban farm might grow high-value or value-added products for a specific niche market
- Agricultural products are grown for others– it is more than products that are personally grown or raised for home consumption. Depending on the site and goals, it could be for-profit, social enterprise and/or educational.
- Often planned to maximize production in a small area
- Might be considered “alternative farming system” since it is not located in the traditional rural area

The USDA Economic Research Service categorizes farms into groupings for reporting and evaluation purposes. The classification is based largely on annual income, primary occupation of the operator, and ownership of the farm. (Urban agriculture is not a category but this site helps define farms). For more information visit <http://www.ers.usda.gov/topics/farm-economy/farm-structure-and-organization/background-on-farm-structure.aspx>

USDA Information and Resources:

- **USDA Urban Agriculture** website (Know Your Farmer Know Your Food/Local and Regional Food Systems/Urban Agriculture) including new document “Urban Agricultural Toolkit”
<http://www.usda.gov/documents/urban-agriculture-toolkit.pdf>
- **New Farmers** includes: New Farmers, Women in Ag, Young Farmers, Veterans, and Farms in Transition. See <https://newfarmers.usda.gov/>
- **Specialty Crops** — Fruits, vegetables, tree nuts, herbs and spices, nursery crops, and floriculture. Also known as horticulture crops. <https://www.ams.usda.gov/services/grants/scbgp/specialty-crop>
- **Youth loan** - The Farm Service Agency (FSA) makes loans to individual rural youths to establish and operate income-producing projects of modest size in connection with their participation in 4-H clubs, Future Farmers of America, and similar organizations. The applicant cannot be younger than 10-years-old or older than 20-years-old and must live in a town of fewer than 10,000 people.
<http://ers.usda.gov/topics/farm-economy/farm-commodity-policy/farm-policy-glossary.aspx>
<http://www.fsa.usda.gov/programs-and-services/farm-loan-programs/rural-youth-loans/index>
- **Food and Nutrition Service** — USDA agency works to end hunger and obesity through the administration of 15 federal nutrition assistance programs including SNAP (food stamps), WIC, and school meals. FNS administers the Farm to School grant program as well as the Farmers Market Nutrition Program and Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program. Definition from <http://sustainableagriculture.net/publications/grassrootsguide/glossary/>
- **Strikeforce for Rural Growth and Opportunity** (Lucas County is a designated county)
http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/usda/usdahome?navid=STRIKE_FORCE
Ohio Strikeforce <http://www.usda.gov/documents/oh-strikeforce-info.pdf>



Lucas County Ohio has examples of agriculture from traditionally rural areas in the county to the urban center:

- Finding Food in Northwest Ohio, 2012, Ken Meter. <http://crcworks.org/ohnwfood.pdf>
- Ohio County Profile, Lucas County <https://www.development.ohio.gov/files/research/C1049.pdf>
- 2007 Agricultural Census [http://www.agcensus.usda.gov/Publications/2007/Online_Highlights/Race, Ethnicity and Gender Profiles/Ohio/cpd39095.pdf](http://www.agcensus.usda.gov/Publications/2007/Online_Highlights/Race,_Ethnicity_and_Gender_Profiles/Ohio/cpd39095.pdf)

Current Educational Opportunities related to Agriculture for Lucas County Residents

Organized Youth Education:

- The National FFA (formerly Future Farmers of America) prepares members for leadership and careers in the science, business and technology of agriculture. The Ohio FFA Association has 24,800 members in 308 chapters throughout Ohio. Under teacher directory the following Lucas County schools had listed contacts: Anthony-Wayne, Oregon, Sylvania, Toledo Public Schools, Washington Local <http://ohioffa.org>
- 4-H Youth Development – a non-formal educational, youth development program offered to individuals age 5 and in kindergarten to age 19, helping kids “learn by doing” through hands-on activities <http://lucas.osu.edu/4H>

Education for Adults:

- Master Urban Farmer – a workshop series offered for the first time in Lucas County in 2015. Contact for Lucas County, Lee Richter, richter.71@osu.edu
- Annie’s Project – national, education for farm women offered in six educational sessions including topics from five risk areas: financial, human resource, legal, market and production. Contact for Lucas County, Amy Stone, stone.91@osu.edu

Additional **Lucas County Resources** for Agriculture:

- Natural Resources Conservation Service <https://www.co.lucas.oh.us/index.aspx?NID=612>
- Soil and Water Conservation District <http://co.lucas.oh.us/index.aspx?NID=458>
- Farm Bureau <https://ofbf.org/counties/Lucas/>
- CIFT – Center for Innovative Food Technology www.ciftinnovation.org
- Maumee Valley Growers www.maumeevalleygrowers.com
- Toledo GROWs, Toledo Botanical Garden www.toledogarden.org/toledogrows/

Additional Agriculture **Resources in Northwest Ohio:**

- Northwest Ohio Food Council www.northwestohiofoodcouncil.com
- Northwest Ohio Cooperative Kitchen (NOCK), nonprofit commercial kitchen for entrepreneurial efforts. Bowling Green, OH <http://agincubator.org/Nock.html>
- Partners in neighboring rural counties bordering Lucas County, such as Fulton, Wood or Ottawa Counties OSU Extension, SWCD or Farm Bureau.

Online Resources:

- Online Local Foods Directories <http://localfoods.osu.edu/resources/ohio-local-food-directories>
- Greens to Greenbacks: The Economic Benefits of Local Food, An Agricultural Economic Development Toolkit <http://morpc.org/pdf/2014LocalFoodsToolkit.pdf>

Resources:

<http://www.fao.org/urban-agriculture/en/>
<http://ucanr.edu/sites/UrbanAg/>