13TH ANNUAL STINNER SUMMIT

October 4th, 2019
Procter Center, London OH

SPONSORED BY

THE BEN STINNER ENDOWMENT & THE
AGROECOSYSTEM MANAGEMENT
PROGRAM OF THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY
The 2019 Stinner Summit was held on October 4th, 2019 at the Procter Center in London, Ohio. The retreat and event center is located on 1,200 acres in predominantly agricultural Madison County. The pastoral beauty of the surroundings on the morning of the Summit were impossible to ignore. Attendees from years before along with new faces arrived on an unusually warm October day to begin a dialogue related to this year’s theme: Minding and Mending the Social Fabric on Ohio Farms.

The inspiration for the Summit was Ben Stinner's rare ability to build relationships based on common interests and his vision, passion and commitment to building healthy agroecosystems and communities. Designed to honor his collaborative spirit, the Summit is a highly engaging and participatory event in which a diverse group of individuals work together to plan a project for the following year that promotes healthy agroecosystems and sustainable communities.

Deb Stinner's famous cinnamon rolls are always a highlight of the Summit. No one needed a second invitation to help themselves to a piping mug of coffee and a sweet cinnamon roll as attendees from different walks of life, different interests and expertise settled in, saying hello to old friends and introducing themselves to new ones.

As tradition dictates, the day began with a group reflection. WK Kellog Chair Casey Hoy shared his connection with Ben Stinner and opened the floor for others to share the threads of their stories. Those who knew Ben reflected on his passion and relentlessness as a social justice advocate, food system worker, and agricultural scientist. Others who were encountering Ben's name and impact for the first time were clearly moved and excited for what the rest of the day held.
Over the course of the day the attendees followed the initial reflection with discussion of key challenges and opportunities facing Ohio agriculture, and how they could come together to address them. The day’s work proceeded from broad topics to specific challenges to proposed solutions that a group like the one assembled could address. By the end of the day, the group agreed that to contribute to the health of Ohio agroecosystems, the growing divide between growers and eaters would have to be bridged. To take a concrete step in this direction, representatives of seven organizations offered to serve as hosts and to organize and facilitate a series of Jefferson dinners (see jeffersondinner.org/jefferson-dinner/), the Stinner Dinners, to build social capital and help ease tensions and stress in farm communities.

Eight to fourteen guests at each dinner, consistent with the Jefferson dinner format, will be invited by the host with attention to including diversity in all forms (class, race, gender, age, and occupation). Dinners will be held on farms and feature ingredients from the farm or as close as possible. Each dinner has been allocated sufficient funding from the Stinner Endowment to cover the cost of food, preparation, catering, venue, and other site requirements.

The dinners will focus on two key themes:

1. **respect for food and farmers**, and particularly how the challenges of social justice, livelihoods and economic stress in general, health care challenges in particular, and isolation of farm and rural populations;

2. **impending systems change** particularly due to political polarization in the US and the world and more extreme temperatures, rainfall patterns, drought, and environmental concerns associated with agriculture.

The seven hosts and dinner location are listed here:

- **OEFFA**- NW Ohio
- **Emily Smith and Bob Leach**- Mansfield
- **Hocking College**- Athens
- **StarkFresh**- Canton
- **MTSO**- Delaware/Marion
- **InFACT**- Columbus
- **AMP**- Mellinger Farm
Suranga Basnagala designed this year’s poster, adding to the Summit memorabilia for the second year in a row. We’re grateful to Suranga for creating artwork for this event in between shuttling his daughter to ballet classes and conducting research with the Agroecosystem Management Program of ARDDC-OSU.

Ben Stinner Endowment Advisory Committee
Casey Hoy
Deb Stinner
Larry Phelan

Venue and Caterer
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See you next year!