



5th Annual

STINNER SUMMIT SUMMARY

Working Together for Healthy Agroecosystems and Sustainable Communities

Friday, October 7, 2011 Wildwood Preserve, Toledo, Ohio

Sponsored by the Ben Stinner Endowment for Healthy Agroecosystems and Sustainable Communities and
The Agroecosystems Management Program of The Ohio State University at the
Ohio Agricultural Research and Development Center

The 5th Annual Stinner Summit was held October 7, 2011, at the Ward Pavilion at the Wildwood Preserve in Toledo, Ohio. The day long workshop honors the memory of Ben Stinner whose work in promoting healthy agroecosystems and building sustainable communities continues on through The Stinner Endowment, established after his untimely death.

The Stinner Summit is an opportunity for people and organizations to network and select a meaningful project to be accomplished together during the upcoming year with funding from the endowment.

The agenda for the day began with a welcome and introduction by Casey Hoy, the Kellogg Endowed Chair in Agricultural Ecosystems Management at the Ohio State University/OARDC and member of the Stinner Endowment Committee. Casey recounted the many projects and outcomes that have resulted from the 4 previous summits.

Last year, the group chose a poly-farming project to create collaboration between commodity and specialty crop farmers.

Two acres of squash, potatoes, edamame soybeans, and other specialty crops were inter-planted with a commodity corn crop on a Wayne County farm. Brian Gwin and Bill Boyer summarized the experiment and discussed yields and other production benefits.

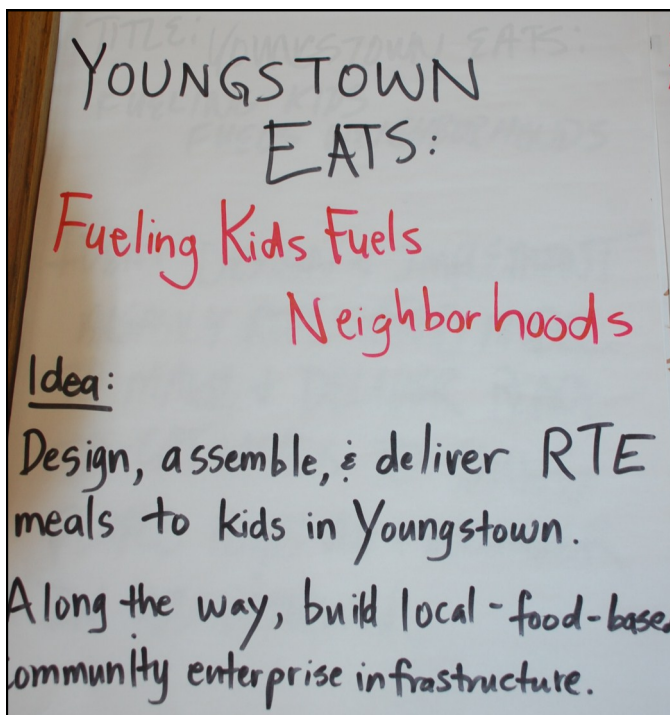


Project planning at the Stinner Summit

A detailed write-up of the project, *Minding Common Ground: Poly-farming in Northeast Ohio*, by Jennifer McMullen, is available on Ethicurean.com.

The Summit uses a tried and true approach to allow participants to define their interest, propose a possible project and solicit support from others in the group.

After a very close final vote, The Youngstown Eats project was chosen as the group's top priority. Led by Steve Bosserman, the idea centers on designing and implementing a model to make and deliver ready to eat meals to children in Youngstown.



The project will engage an array of community resources to help launch the planned sustainable system for better child nutrition and food security.

PROJECT SUGGESTIONS FROM THE 5TH ANNUAL STINNER SUMMIT

- **MENTORING PROGRAM FOR NEW FARMERS**
- **FEASIBILITY STUDY FOR REGIONAL FOOD HUBS**
- **SOIL HEALTH**
- **CROPPING SYSTEM MATRIX FOR ENTERPRISE BUDGETS**
- **HUNGER ELIMINATION PROGRAM FOR CHILDREN IN YOUNGSTOWN**

Regardless of the voting and Endowment support, most of the proposed projects from previous Summits have gained traction and gotten underway, because a committed and capable group had the opportunity to develop solid project plans.

This is exactly what the Summit and the legacy of Ben Stinner are all about.



The Agroecosystems Management Program OARDC/OSU

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