



## New Food Systems a Key to Our Future

The public health crisis caused by the COVID-19 pandemic has all of us within the academic community thinking, a lot, about what really matters and how we should respond. Here at InFACT, we are remembering how our Discovery Theme, Food Production and Security, has been a poignant response to the Great Recession and its effects on communities here in Ohio and elsewhere.

[\*Read more thoughts on the current pandemic and our food system by InFACT's Casey Hoy and Brian Snyder.\*](#)

---

---



## Food and Farming in a Time of Uncertainty

Small-acreage farming is a tough business in the best of times. The COVID-19 pandemic, as it has for many businesses around the country, has left many farmers uncertain of where and how they'll sell their products this season. Learn how some InFACT programs may be poised to adapt to and address some of the challenges ahead.

[Read more](#)

---

---



## InFACT and TDAI host "Data Foundations for Food System Resilience" Symposium

Last month, partners from two Discovery Themes, Initiative for Food and AgriCultural Transformation (InFACT) and Translational Data Analytics Institute (TDAI), and colleagues from University of California, Davis, organized the "Data Foundations for Food System Resilience" symposium. The event builds on a National Science Foundation-funded Research Coordination Network - Smart Foodsheds grant (RCN) by engaging with stakeholders to share data sources, methods and tools for addressing food system challenges. Researchers from multiple colleges across the University came together to discuss data coordination in the areas of food policy, agricultural working landscapes, food supply chains, and the diet-health connection.

---

In light of the current COVID-19 pandemic, the RCN team is working on a collaborative approach to supporting efforts to address the immediate food insecurity challenges and demand on emergency food networks, but perhaps more importantly, predicting and addressing medium and longer term impacts as new food security challenges grow due to infections, layoffs, lost income, business closures, disruption in transportation networks and food supply chains, and constraints on food production in the coming growing season.

---

## Linkage and Leverage Grant Focus Shifts to COVID-19 Response

We know that many have been working on proposals for the April Linkage and Leverage grant deadline. Given the current challenges we face together, however, seed grant funding for all of the Discovery Themes programs is being refocused on response to the global coronavirus pandemic. The Research Development Office will be managing a call for proposals for seed funding, expected within the next day or two, and we encourage InFACT affiliates to consider research that they could contribute, for example issues of food insecurity resulting directly and indirectly from quarantine measures, food supply chain resilience in disaster situations, and/or the relationships between nutrition and COVID-19 disease symptoms and outcomes. Federal programs like USDA have extended their deadlines and we'll continue to support interdisciplinary teams applying to those programs.

Other federal programs like NSF are shifting their attention to COVID-19 and deserve your consideration as well, for example the [NSF Dear Colleague Letter](#)

---

[on the Coronavirus Disease 2019](#), or [C3.ai Digital Transformation Institute for AI](#) applied to topics including: Logistics and optimization analysis for design of public health strategies and interventions; and Improving societal resilience in response to the spread of COVID-19 Pandemic. We're staying at home, but we can still contribute in the ways we always have. Let's find ways to help, and improve resilience in the food system in the process.

We will follow up with more information once we have details on the new call for proposals.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

*Many upcoming events have been cancelled in light of social distancing recommendations. We encourage you to check out the following virtual events:*

### **Evaluating Consumer Food Waste Reduction Interventions**

April 1, [Zoom Link](#)

### **OSU Extension Agriculture and Natural Resources Madness**

Ongoing through April, [More info here](#)

## FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

[InFACT Linkage and Leverage Grants](#)

**Deadline: POSTPONED**

[USDA Regional Food Systems Partnership](#)

**Deadline: May 11**

[USDA Farmers Market Promotion Program](#)

**Deadline: May 11**

---

[Local Food Promotion Program](#)

**Deadline: May 11**

[The Gus Schumacher Nutrition Incentive Program](#)

**Deadline: May 18**

[Learn more about funding opportunities](#)

---

[Join our email list](#)

[Submit a newsletter item](#)

[Become an affiliate](#)

[Support InFACT](#)

[Volunteer](#)

---



INITIATIVE FOR FOOD+AGRICULTURAL TRANSFORMATION

3138B Smith Lab, 174 W. 18<sup>th</sup> Ave., Columbus, OH 43210

[infact@osu.edu](mailto:infact@osu.edu) | [discovery.osu.edu/infact](http://discovery.osu.edu/infact)



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY