

Discovery at Ohio State: New Thought for Food - May 2020

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*This month, we wanted to share what we're hearing from researchers, farmers, gardeners and eaters in the wake of the Coronavirus pandemic. Check out the articles below on what we've heard from surveys, what our partner organizations have seen and one groups's pivot to a new way to providing resources to OSU students.*

*For more information on the US food system's response, compiled from across the country, check out the [Snapshots of the US Food and Farm System: Pandemic Edition](#) put together by the Presbyterian Hunger Programs.*



## Responses to the Pandemic - Observations and Aspirations for the Food System

The readily apparent impacts of the pandemic on our food system are not the food and agri-cultural transformation that we had in mind when the Initiative for Food and AgriCultural Transformation (InFACT) began. Our research and outreach was planned as a means of improving food security for all, including during and after widespread disruptions in our food system, like the one we're experiencing. We're working on that even harder as the pandemic rages on.

A university is a place to raise awareness, conversation and examination of the challenges society faces, the Discovery Themes being a case in point. In that spirit of community conversation, we've collected thoughts, observations, perceptions, from across the InFACT network – researchers, community leaders, farmers, gardeners, all of us people who eat – on what is currently happening in the food system, and what they'd like to see changed. See a snapshot here that highlights the variety of perspectives engaged by InFACT; we're grateful for the thoughts that were shared and the many contributions to our work together.

[Read more](#)

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# Reflections from Faculty and Farm Advocates

A few individuals and partner organizations penned thoughtful essays in response to our requests. Check out these reflections using the links below:

- [Associate Director of the Humanities Institute Rick Livingston](#)
  - [Associate Professor of Social Work Michelle Kaiser](#)
  - [Ohio Ecological Food and Farm Association](#)
  - [Methodist Theological School in Ohio and Seminary Hill Farm](#)
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## Best Food Forward pivots to support students facing food insecurity

In response to the COVID-19 outbreak, OSU student organization Best Food Forward still wanted to be a place where students who need it most can access healthy food, but due to University policy, couldn't offer bulk buys. In place of this, this club offered assistance in the form of grocery funds to students (graduate and undergraduate) who are struggling to obtain food.



[Read more](#)

Interested in supporting their efforts? Donate to the Best Friend Grocery Fund using [this link](#).

### UPCOMING EVENTS

*Many upcoming events have been cancelled in light of social distancing recommendations. We will continue to keep you posted on virtual events in our Weekly Digest.*

### FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

[Community Food Projects Grant](#)

**Deadline: June 3**

[AFRI Foundational and Applied Science Program - \(includes "Rapid Response to Novel Coronavirus -Impacts Across Food and Agricultural Systems"\)](#)

**Deadline: June 4**

[Cooperative Agreements for Community Compost and Food Waste Reduction](#)

**Deadline: June 26**

[Urban Agriculture and Innovation Production Competitive Grants](#)

**Deadline: July 6**

[Learn more about funding opportunities](#)

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