

In the Field



Sarah Lenkay at Growing Power hosted by Tecumseh Land Trust, Fairborn, OH.

Work Profiled in Mid-Ohio Foodbank's Newsletter

Previous undergraduate research assistant with SRI, Sarah Lenkay, who graduated in 2010 from SENR, is completing her first year of service with the AmeriCorps VISTA program at the Mid-Ohio Foodbank. The work she is doing was recently highlighted in their newsletter. As the Produce Market Coordinator and Community Garden VISTA, Sarah splits her time about 80-20 with Mid-Ohio Foodbank and as the coordinator for the Franklin County Commissioners' Gantz Road Community Garden. At the Foodbank, Sarah is responsible for their produce initiatives. She has facilitated an initiative to distribute 6 million pounds of fresh food to high-need areas within a 4 month time period. They accomplish this primarily through Produce Markets, with 150 markets total in 20 counties. Their trucks go to agency partners and give away the produce free of charge to those who are in need of assistance. Next year, Sarah will continue to work with the Mid-Ohio Foodbank as their Community Garden Coordinator VISTA to develop a comprehensive youth garden and life skill program. With OSU Extension, Franklin Park Conservatory, and other partners, she will be fusing gardening, food preparation and cooking, budgeting, and nutrition into a program for urban youth that can be replicated. 🌱

Final Master's Fellow Completes Fellowship Training Program with a thesis focused on food entrepreneurs

Erin Caricofe's thesis, "Handcrafting The Change They Want To Eat In The World? An Inquiry Into The Who, What, and Why of Artisanal Food Production in Central Ohio" offers a qualitative portrait of artisanal food producers and the various factors motivating them. While artisanal food production is occurring nationally, this research focuses on the motivations and factors influencing a set of Central Ohio food artisans, to explore some of the following questions: What does it mean to be artisanal? What are the artisans' core values and motivations? How are food artisans' participants in what academics refer to as the "quality turn?" Where do food artisans stand in opposition to mass-produced, industrial



Erin Caricofe

food? Are food artisans a new part of the alternative food movement, or a movement unto themselves? In what ways does their work impact the dominant food system? Data revealed food artisans to be values-based individuals emphasizing product quality through their careful sourcing of ingredients (mostly local) and the use of traditional, time-consuming production methods. The food artisans studied expressed a strong desire to operate as locally embedded businesses, consistent with the ideas of Civic Agriculture. Their production practices and product quality goals reveal an alignment with the quality turn occurring in the food system, and a broadening of what the quality turn can encompass. While these artisans were not actively involved in an alternative food system movement as identified by other food system scholars, there were many similarities in terms of personal motivations and business practices among these artisans. Future studies in other regions and of larger samples of artisans might investigate the extent to which these artisans represent their own food system movement. Erin will be returning to Washington, DC to continue working with the food and agriculture community. We wish her much success! For an update on the doctoral Fellows, visit <http://sri.osu.edu/fellowships/fellows>. 🌱



Ariel Miller, current SRI undergraduate research assistant, spent two weeks volunteering on a WWOOF farm in Peru this summer as part of her seven weeks of travel in the country. The project she was involved with, Sircadia Eco Project, is situated in the mountains just outside Quillabamba, a town about 60 miles north of Cuzco. The operation was working on growing potatoes, cabbage, carrots, beans, squash and sweet potatoes. She gained valuable international experience, was exposed a very different lifestyle, and improved her Spanish in the process.



Remember to visit our new website at www.sri.osu.edu to learn about past and current projects, keep up to date with the USDA Fellows, check out what events

are going on in Ohio related to local foods, and access a variety of topical publications!



Social Responsibility Initiative Highlights

Winter 2011 issue

College of Food, Agricultural,
and Environmental Sciences

School of Environment and
Natural Resources

320A Kottman Hall

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Conference Presentations

Campbell, J.T. and L. Lobao. "Local Governments' Economic Development Policies: Rural and Urban Differences in Externally-Based and Internally-Based Strategies." Paper presented at the Rural Sociological Society Annual Meeting, Boise, ID, July 2011.

Jeanty, P. W., C. Hoy, D. Kraybill, L. Lobao, and M. D. Partridge. "Effects of local land use policies on crop diversity: a multivariate probit approach." Presented at the 50th Meeting of the Southern Regional Science Association, New Orleans, LA, March 2011.

Lekies, K. "Community Change and Adaptation in Historical Perspective: Lessons Learned from a Midwestern Village." Paper presented at the Rural Sociological Society Annual Meeting, Boise, ID, July 2011.

Lobao, L., W. Jeanty, M. Partridge, and D. Kraybill. "Poverty and Place across the United States and the Policies of County Governments." Paper presented at the American Sociological Association, Las Vegas NV, August 2011.

Lobao, L. and L. Adua. "Austerity Policies Across The United States: The Changing Political Economy Of Local Governments' Responses." Paper presented at the American Sociological Association, Las Vegas NV, August 2011.

Lobao, L., P.W. Jeanty, D. Kraybill, and M.D. Partridge. "Poverty and Place Across the United States: Does County Government Matter to Improving Socioeconomic Conditions?" Presented at the 50th Meeting of the Southern Regional Science Association, New Orleans, LA, March 2011.

Schupp, J. and R. Som Castellano. "Exploring Paradox in the Local Foods Movement: Challenges Uniting Ideology and Practice." Paper presented at the American Sociological Society Annual Meeting, Las Vegas, NV, August 2011.

Sharp, J.S. and M. Bean. "Farmers' Markets as Third Places." Paper presented at the Rural Sociological Society Annual Meeting, Boise, ID, July 2011.

Sharp, J.S., G. Hitzhusen, and T. Henshaw. "Environmental Attitudes and Religion: Theory, Concepts and Measurement Issues Related to an Emerging Study." Paper presented at the Rural Sociological Society Annual Meeting, Boise, ID, July 2011.

Som Castellano, R. "Ideas, Interests, and Institutions: Examining Change in Food Security Policy." Paper presented at the European Society for Rural Sociology, Chania, Greece, August 2011.

Publications

Campbell, J. T., Koontz, T.M., & Bonnell, J.E. (2011) "Does Collaboration Promote Grass-Roots Behavior Change? Farmer Adoption of Best Management Practices in Two Watersheds." *Society and Natural Resources*. 24 (11), 1127-1141.

Clark, J.K., S. Inwood and J.S. Sharp. (2011) "Scaling-up Connections between Regional Ohio Specialty Crop Producers and Local Markets: Distribution as the Missing Link." Published by the Center for Farmland Policy Innovation, The Ohio State University. Available on-line: <http://cffpi.osu.edu/distribution.htm>

Donald, B., M. Gertler, M. Gray, and L. Lobao. (2010) "Re-Regionalizing the Food System." *Cambridge Journal of Regions, Economy and Society*. 3 (2): 1-5.