



OEFFA

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Town Hall Meetings: Selection Criteria and List of Potential Groups

- **Selection and Outreach Criteria**
 - Priority will be given to the following groups:
 - Groups requesting a meeting
 - Groups with limited or no use of telephones
 - Self-organized groups
 - A balance of geographic diversity within our certification region
 - A balance of areas in which certification is common and those in which it is not (early vs. late adopters of organic certification)

- **List of potential groups for outreach**
 - **West Salem, Northeast Ohio**

This vegetable growing community does not use phones, and requested a face-to-face certification meeting last year, which was a positive experience and was part of what led us to propose Town Hall meetings as an aspect of our Sound & Sensible work.
 - **Kenton/DeGraff Communities, Central Ohio**

This is an old-order group of Amish who do not use phones. A face-to-face meeting might be of use in clarifying standards, building confidence and answering questions.
 - **Millersburg, Ohio area, Northcentral/ Northeast Ohio**

This area is home to a large concentration of organic producers, including Greenfield Farms Cooperative. Greenfield Farms is a group of plain vegetable and egg producers.
 - **Geauga Family Farms Collaborative CSA, Northeast Ohio**

Geauga Family Farms is a group of plain growers who provide a collaborative vegetable CSA. All of the producers are certified organic.
 - **South Central Ohio Grazing Group**

A group of producers have a self-organized grazing group in Southcentral Ohio. The group has many plain members.

- Greenfield/Hillsboro, Southwest Ohio
 OEFFA certifies another group of plain producers in this region. Though it is a smaller concentration than in some other parts of the state, it might be a good opportunity for a Town Hall meeting.
- Northeastern Indiana
 OEFFA certifies approximately 50 plain producers in a 3 county area in Northern Indiana. Other than inspections, there has not been much opportunity for face-to-face interaction.
- Northwestern Pennsylvania
 Organic certification is newer to the dairy producers in this region. Access to information and resources is much more difficult than in other parts of Ohio and Pennsylvania. This might be an important timeframe for outreach in this area.
- South Central Pennsylvania
 OEFFA certifies a large number of operations in this region. While organic is more common here than in some other areas, there remains opportunity for growth and improvement.
- Dayton, VA area
 OEFFA certifies several producers in the Dayton, Virginia area, some of which belong to the Shenandoah Valley Farm cooperative. Some of this group of plain producers has also migrated westward and settled in Ohio and beyond.
- Kalona/Bloomfield area of Southeastern Iowa
 OEFFA also serves a critical mass of organic crop and livestock producers in the Kalona/Bloomfield, Iowa area. Most of this group is Amish.
- Northeastern Missouri
 This area of Missouri has a group of organic producers built around Lakeview Farms seed business. Though it is far from our headquarters in Ohio, we work closely with the organic operators in this area.
- Southwestern Missouri
 This area represents the highest concentration of OEFFA's plain, egg producing clients.