



**OHIO SENATE GENERAL GOVERNMENT AND AGENCY REVIEW COMMITTEE**  
**Governor Mike DeWine's Executive Budget**  
**Ohio Department of Higher Education**

**May 8, 2019**

Chair Schuring. Ranking member O'Brien. Members of the Senate General Government and Agency Review Committee, good afternoon. My name is David Cummins and I serve as the Vice-Chancellor of Finance and Data Management for the Ohio Department of Higher Education.

The department was requested to speak to the agricultural portions of the FY2020-2021 Executive Budget. Those specific items are:

- Sea Grants (GRF ALI 235402)
- Cooperative Extension Service (GRF ALI 235511)
- Ohio Agricultural Research and Development Center (GRF ALI 235535)
- Central State Agricultural Research and Development (GRF ALI 235546)

I will go through each item and explain their importance to the department's budget.

**SEA GRANTS**

The Sea Grants appropriation item matches federal funds for the Ohio Sea Grant Program, the mission of which is to improve the development and management of Lake Erie. The Ohio Sea Grant Program is one of 32 Sea Grant programs in the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) Sea Grant College Program and a part of the OSU land-grant program. Between one-third and one-half of this funding goes to competitive grants for agency and academic scientists to conduct research on the ecology and economy of Lake Erie.

At its current funding level of \$299,250 since FY2016, Sea Grants will be able to leverage state funds to draw down increased federal funding, award competitive grants for research projects addressing critical problems and opportunities, and continue conducting workshops, field trips and conferences annually at Stone Lab. The Stone Lab is a key asset in OSU efforts to address water quality issues in Lake Erie. In fact, Stone Lab was recognized in the Clean Lake 2020 Act last year (Senate Bill 299 sponsored by then Senator Gardner) with a \$2.65 million capital appropriation for enhanced lab capacity and in-lake water quality monitoring.

Even though we did not request increased state funding for this line item, it remains important in our water quality research efforts.



## **COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE**

The Cooperative Extension Service is operated by the Ohio State University Extension under the Ohio State University's land-grant mandate. Located in every one of Ohio's 88 counties, the OSU Extension conducts educational programs for eligible participants, including farmers, families, food and fiber industries, community leaders, and young people. The programs under the Cooperative Extension Service are designed to help people improve their lives, businesses, and communities through research-based education using scientific knowledge focused on identified issues and needs. Current program areas include agriculture and natural resources, the environment, family and consumer sciences (including home economics and family living), 4-H youth development, and community and workforce development.

Requested funding of \$24,110,186 since FY2018, would allow Cooperative Extension to continue to provide programming that addresses four critical issues of importance to Ohioans. These include improving water quality in the Western Lake Erie Basin (WLEB), helping families address negative farm income scenarios through farm financial management, on-the-ground efforts to address the opioid crisis, and increasing the availability of locally sourced food. OSU Extension currently makes more than 1.5 million contacts annually to catalyze behavioral change and improve quality of life. Much of this reach is through the Ohio 4-H program.

## **OHIO AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT**

The Ohio Agricultural Research and Development Center (OARDC) is the research arm of the Ohio State University's College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences (CFAES). OARDC helps Ohio's agricultural industries improve their competitiveness and profitability.

Headquartered in Columbus and Wooster, OARDC also has twelve "outlying agricultural research stations" located in every region of Ohio, including OSU's main campus. OARDC is active in various basic and applied research areas, including agricultural, environmental, and developmental economics; food, agricultural, and biological engineering; animal sciences; entomology; food-animal health; food science and technology; horticulture and crop science; human and community resource development; human ecology; natural resources; and plant pathology. The funds provide technology and scientific infrastructure to attract the nation's top researchers and help leverage external research funding. OARDC serves such diverse groups as consumers, farmers and other producers, food processors, environmentalists, landfill managers, and researchers.



Maintaining current GRF funding levels at \$36,361,470 from FY2019 will enable the Agricultural Research and Development Program to continue existing programs and be responsive to the agricultural industry and emerging needs such as water quality and food safety. These funds would provide the opportunity to enhance the pace of research and commercialization of new products and processes. Research on water quality is critical to Ohio. Commercialization of ongoing research such as animal vaccines, antibiotic resistance, and enhancement of plant genetic resources that protect or enhance Ohio agriculture would move more quickly. Additional creative ideas to advance the state's economy would be put into action.

Without this funding, reductions would occur including staff elimination and the reduction of research activities. Additionally, because state GRF dollars are used to generate additional federal investments, a state funding reduction would reduce the amount of external funding allocated on behalf of agricultural research and development activities.

### **CENTRAL STATE AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT**

In the federal Agricultural Act of 2014 (commonly referred to as the 2014 Farm Bill), Congress officially awarded 1890 land-grant institution status to Central State University (CSU). It is one of 19 historically black colleges with this designation, and the only one in Ohio. Since receiving this designation, CSU has been in the process of building its research capacity by developing new facilities and adding research faculty.

Pursuant to CSU's federally required work plan for research and extension, the funds in this line item are combined with federal funds from the U.S. Department of Agriculture to create a new land-grant research station on its campus called the Agricultural, Food Sciences, and Water Resources Center (AFWRC), which is scheduled for completion in 2021. AFWRC efforts will include strengthening CSU's water quality program, a forte of the university owing to the creation of the International Center for Water Resources Management at CSU in 1987 by an act of the Ohio General Assembly.

This line item has historically been used in conjunction with GRF line item 235548, Central State Cooperative Extension Services, as the state match required for Central State University's status as an 1890 land grant university and the federal funding that comes along with it.

Thank you Chair Schuring and Members of the Committee. I am happy to answer any questions you may have.