

Testimony of Garyn Angel

CEO, Farm-Ed

Before the Ohio Senate Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee

Chairman Schaffer, Vice Chair Koehler, Ranking Member Hicks-Hudson, and esteemed members of the committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of Farm-Ed and our request to establish the Agriculture Technology and Education Grant Pilot Program.

My name is Garyn Angel, and I am the CEO, Founder of Farm-Ed, as well as the inventor of the Farm-Ed device—an AI-powered indoor farm designed specifically for K-12 education.

Our device creates a completely controlled environment—managing light, water, nutrients, temperature, and humidity—and captures over 200,000 data points per day. It features an internal camera that monitors plant health and can detect issues before they become visible to the human eye.

Our mission is to revolutionize STEM education by introducing students to AI-driven agriculture in a hands-on, engaging way. For younger learners, the curricula introduce basic plant biology and environmental science. Students are encouraged to experiment with the settings and observe how changes affect plant growth. For older students, the program delves into data analysis, artificial intelligence, hydroponic engineering, and business modeling—teaching skills that extend far beyond agriculture.

While not every student will pursue a career in agriculture, every student will benefit from understanding how to work with data, interpret AI-generated insights, and apply real-world problem-solving techniques.

We are currently deploying Farm-Ed devices in both urban and rural districts in states such as Florida, Kentucky, North Carolina, Louisiana, and West Virginia, with strong bipartisan support. In Ohio, we are proud to be working in partnership with the Ohio Department of Agriculture to bring this innovation to classrooms across the state.

To support this expansion, we respectfully request the creation of the Agriculture Technology and Education Grant Pilot Program, funded at \$2 million per year for the upcoming biennium. The program would allow schools to apply for grant funding to receive a Farm-Ed device, with an equal commitment to serving both urban and rural communities.

Farm-Ed provides professional development and technical training for teachers, offers ongoing support, and maintenance.

Last year, we donated a unit to Miami Trace Elementary School. I want to thank Senator Wilkin for visiting the classroom and witnessing firsthand the excitement and engagement from students as they interacted with the Farm-Ed platform.

If you'd like to see the device in action, we've installed one this morning in the Map Room downstairs. I encourage you to explore the future.

Thank you again for your time and consideration. I welcome any questions you may have.