

**Testimony of Sunny Cummings, Asst. Principal, Miami Trace Elementary  
before the Senate Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee**

Chairman Schaffer, Vice Chair Koehler, Ranking Member Hicks-Hudson and members of the Senate Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee:

My name is Sunny Cummings and I am an assistant principal at Miami Trace Elementary in Fayette County. Over the past six months, we have had the pleasure to work alongside the Farm-Ed team to bring a Farm-Ed AI Grow Chamber to our K-5 school building. This has been an exciting and innovative journey to enhance our current science curriculum and extend the state standards for our elementary students. Being from a largely rural area that is rich with agricultural heritage, we saw this as an opportunity to bring the future of agriculture to our students in a way to blend the traditional approach of agriculture that they see outside our classroom windows with the future innovation of what is yet to come!

The Farm-Ed partnership has touched our entire building of nearly 1,200 elementary students. They have all had the opportunity to witness each grow through our video announcements. But most of all, nearly 400 4th and 5th grade students have explored the Farm-Ed grow chamber through hands-on, inquiry-based STEM lesson plans that allow them to expand their educational journey beyond their desk or the classroom. The teachers here with me today have passionately led the charge to incorporate STEM into their students' science curriculum.

We are hopeful that, with your support, this valuable learning partnership with Farm-Ed can be expanded to our Middle School and High School by providing each building grow chambers to continue the journey of AI and STEM lessons to all of our students. We are already planning ways to involve our older students to take part of the Farm-Ed journey, like data analysis, statistics, horticulture science, and exploring advances in agricultural technology.

We see great value in offering the Farm-Ed experience to students across the state of Ohio to not only educate our Ohio learners who may not have a solid grasp that their food doesn't just come from a grocery store, but it will also advance their knowledge about the future technology of agricultural production. By offering this robust curriculum and opportunity to students, it will not only enrich their learning experiences, but we believe it may also introduce them to possible careers and practices that they could incorporate into their futures.

[Student Testimonial Video](#)







