

Governor Ted Strickland
Lieutenant Governor Lee Fisher
Director Robert J. Boggs

Office of Communication
8995 East Main Street, Reynoldsburg, OH 43068
Phone: 614-752-9817 • Fax: 614-466-7754
www.agri.ohio.gov • communications@agri.ohio.gov

Ohio Neighborhood Harvest

Ohio Gov. Ted Strickland's Ohio Neighborhood Harvest initiative, announced in his 2010 State of the State address, is a statewide effort to ensure that Ohioans in every neighborhood have access to locally-grown, affordable and healthy food.

In the coming months the Ohio Food Policy Advisory Council and the Ohio Department of Agriculture, with assistance from other state agencies, will move forward with its Ohio Neighborhood Harvest work to identify areas in the state that lack access to fresh, healthy food, analyze information, and propose solutions to gaps in our food system using the following steps:

- Step One: A framework for a statewide analysis of food gaps has been developed by Ohio Food Policy Advisory Council members, researchers, state agencies, private business representatives and food security advocates.
- Step Two: The Ohio Department of Health is currently running an analysis of food gaps in Ohio. This information will be combined with existing data and then analyzed in detail. From this analysis, a list of potential solutions will be developed, and may include options such as:
- Improving fresh, local food access in corner stores
 - Developing new grocery models
 - Supporting farmers market development
 - Expanding the ability to process food assistance at fresh food outlets
 - Making innovative connections with rural farmers
- Step Three: The information gathered at the state level will be combined with tools at the local level using a simplified computer mapping tool. Local communities can input the state-level data and verify that it is accurate within their area. They will also have the capability to include information such as community gardens and farmers markets.
- Step Four: Ohio Neighborhood Harvest will equip local communities to make decisions on what will work best where they live and work to identify resources to help implement those solutions.

Ohioans spend about \$43 billion every year on food, but only 3 percent of that spending goes to products from Ohio farms. The Ohio Neighborhood Harvest initiative will improve access to Ohio-grown products, ensure that people in every neighborhood have access to affordable, healthy food, and help boost our rural economies.

