



Southern Ohio Agricultural &
Community Development
Foundation

Fiscal Year 2019 Annual Report

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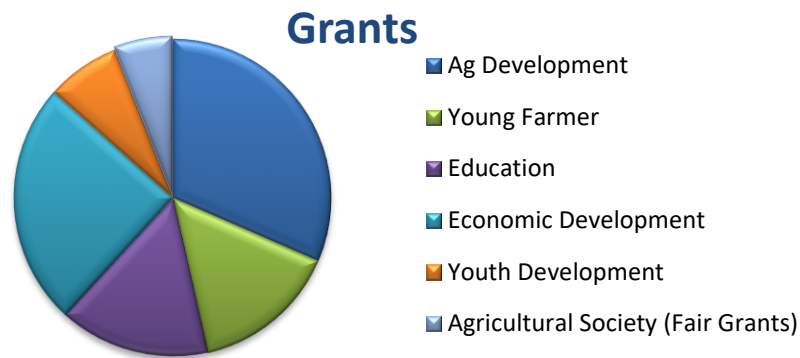
The Southern Ohio Agricultural & Community Development Foundation (SOACDF) is an organization created by the 123rd General Assembly under the Amended Sub. S.B. 192. The Foundation is charged by the Ohio Legislature with providing agricultural and economic assistance to southern Ohio's tobacco counties. The emphasis of these efforts is to replace the production of tobacco in southern Ohio with other agricultural products as well as to mitigate the adverse economic impact of reduced tobacco production in the region.

In Fiscal year 2019, the Southern Ohio Agricultural & Community Development Foundation's efforts have resulted in total direct investments exceeding \$1.6 million for the twenty-two traditional tobacco producing counties of southern Ohio.

Three primary program areas have been identified to improve farming profitability, strengthen local economic development efforts and provide educational assistance within the twenty-two counties of southern Ohio where the Foundation operates. These program investments are designed as follows:

- **Educational Assistance** – To provide educational assistance to farmers and their eligible dependents.
 - **Educational Excellence**- To recognize outstanding achievement among college upperclassmen.
- **Economic Development**- To make strategic investments in communities by incentivizing companies to create and retain jobs.
- **Agricultural Development** – To increase the variety, quantity and value of agricultural products other than tobacco.
 - **Young Farmer** – Producers between the ages of 20 – 38 who reside in the 22 counties the Foundation serves.
 - **Agricultural Society Grant**- To cost-share with the agricultural societies in the major tobacco counties for the purpose of improving facilities that will promote youth education and agriculture.
- **Youth Development**- To enhance the education and development of youth with a lasting impact on the area the Foundation serves. This grant meant for the purpose of reconstruction of existing buildings, remodel or upgrades to facilities and/or construction of new structure at the Canters Cave facility located in Jackson County, Ohio.

The SOACDF directly invested more than \$1.6 million into the state's economy through these programs. These investments were matched by approximately \$2.5 million in cost-share investments by recipients of these awards by SOACDF. The following chart shows how these investments were made.



Educational Assistance Program

More than \$159,000 invested in educational assistance for 80 applicants.

For the academic year 2018-2019 the SOACDF administered the Educational Assistance Program. More than \$250,000 was invested in degree programs for individuals who have a current Farm Service Number on record with the Farm Service Agency as of July 1, 2017 and reside in the 22 counties the Foundation serves OR Tobacco quota owners, quota owners/growers, or grower/tenants of Farm Service Agency (FSA) record in any single crop year from 1997 through 2004 and their immediate family dependents whose permanent address is within the State of Ohio.

The Educational Assistance Program assists farmers who have suffered the economic impact of reductions in the demand for burley tobacco. Through educational assistance, these farmers and their dependents are able to acquire the skills necessary to transition to new or supplemental income generating occupations. The program provides up to \$2,000 in educational assistance per person each year for eligible individuals.

Again, for the 2018-2019 school year the Southern Ohio Agricultural and Community Development Foundation offered the Educational Excellence Competitive Grant program. This program for undergraduate students pursuing a Bachelor's degree awards a one-time grant of up to \$7,500 towards the cost of tuition, on campus room and board and books. In FY19, fourteen of these grants were awarded for the upcoming school year.

2019-2020 Educational Excellence Grant Winners



The SOACDF scholarship has tremendously helped me cover my college tuition. This organization made it possible for me continue further with my studies without having to sacrifice that time to working a part time job to cover tuition costs. This scholarship really helped me push myself and improve my GPA and work as hard as I possibly can. I am forever thankful for receiving this scholarship and what it has done for me."

Clinton Bapst, Pike County



"SOACDF provides an abundance of opportunities to the people of Southern Ohio and this foundation is truly an asset to the many communities that it serves. I could not be more humbled to have received an Educational Excellence Grant from the foundation this year. The possibilities are endless when it comes to education and I can now wholeheartedly pursue my future academic endeavors with financial ease of mind."

McKayla Raines, Adams County

"To the members of SOACDF, I would like to say thank you for supporting students that are continuing their education. This scholarship helped me cover my tuition cost in full for this academic year. I greatly appreciate this award and all you do for the Agricultural Community."

Erin Jennings, Clermont County



Economic Development Program

Total investments exceeding \$414,000 supported 7 economic development program awards. These projects created or retained approximately 100 new jobs.

The

expand job opportunities for residents in the traditional tobacco producing counties in southern Ohio. The SOACDF approved two projects that were awarded in total \$286,000 by cost-sharing up to 35% of a total projects cost. In fact, in FY19 an additional \$4 million dollars were invested by applicants as their cost share component for the economic development project. These investments are used for capital improvements and equipment acquisition that foster job creation and retention.

Economic Development program provides grants for projects that will create, retain or



Woods Lumber, Adams County



Dedienne Aerospace, Clermont County





"We're incredibly grateful to SOACDF for their support of PureCycle Technologies. With their generous aid we have been able to accelerate our efforts of providing a circular solution for the plastic waste crisis with our ultra-pure recycled polypropylene. We can't thank SOACDF enough for their support and are humbled to have such wonderful partners all working towards a pure planet."

*-Tayt Rule, Chief Operating Officer,
PureCycle, Lawrence County*



Lisa Frost Dental, Pike County

Young Farmer Program

In Fiscal Year 19, total investments exceeding \$250,000 supported 12 Young Farmer program awards in 6 different counties.

The Young Farmer Program is designed to help young producers grow their agricultural enterprises. This program promotes projects that are innovative, progressive, utilize technology and incorporate conservation practices. Eligible applicants must reside and the project must be completed within the 22 counties the Foundation currently serves. Applicants must be between the ages of 20 and 38 as of August 1st 2018.

The SOACDF invested more than \$250,000 that was cost shared up to a maximum of 50% and leveraged an additional \$489,000 for the total investment of more than \$740,000 in the twenty-two traditional tobacco producing counties of Ohio.



"We are so thankful to have had the opportunity to receive the Young Farmers Grant in 2018. This spring we were able to build a large hay barn with an garage. We are now able to store our hay, tractor, and equipment out of the weather. This raises the value of our hay for resale and helps protect our equipment from the elements. We are now able to use the garage area to work on equipment as needed, having the tools nearby

and a place to work on things has been great and such a time saver. The barn turned out better than we even imagined and has been a huge blessing to our family so far and will for years and years to come. Thank you so much to the SOACDF staff for being wonderful throughout this process and providing us with this opportunity to grow our farm for us and future generations.”

**Luke Dixon,
Scioto County**



The Pat Raines Young Farmer Program allowed us to develop our property into a safe and efficient location to raise cattle. The program is great for helping young farmers accelerate their timeline, expand their operation, and add to their bottom line. We are very appreciative of the SOACDF and the opportunities they opened for us and our farm.

**Devon Baum
Meigs County**



Nathan Chaney, Highland County



Rebecca Lore, Scioto County

AJ Cluxton, Adams County



Josh Copas, Adams County

Agricultural Development Program

In fiscal year 2019 total investments of more than \$527,000 supported 24 Agricultural Development awards.

The Agricultural Development program assists farmers by increasing the variety, quantity and value of agricultural products other than tobacco. This cost share program provides up to \$25,000 matching funds for capital investments necessary for diversification and development.

The SOACDF invested more than \$527,000 that was cost shared up to a maximum of 50% and leveraged an additional \$1.5 million for a total investment more than \$2 million in the twenty-two traditional tobacco producing counties of Ohio. These investments occur in four general categories:

- Expansion and revitalization of an existing agriculture enterprise.
- Diversification into a new agricultural enterprise.
- Commercial agribusiness.
- Marketing/ processing of value added agriculture.



David Westfall, Washington County



Mark Wickerham, Adams County

Because the agricultural development program is such a highly competitive process less than half of the applications were funded. Project applications are reviewed and ranked by a committee based on a formula of cost-share funds committed and the quality of the business plan for the proposed project.

The SOACDF collaborates with the Ohio State University South Centers Business Development Network to provide confidential one-on-one business planning assistance as well as training events to assist applicants in their efforts related to development. In 2018-2019 the Ohio State University staff provided one-on-one assistance to 36 farmers in the development of their business plan, marketing feasibility, and financial analysis.

“The SOACDF Ag development grant played a large part in making my wean to finish hog barn a reality. The grant helped me to diversify and grow my operation to a whole new level by securing a multi-year contract to custom feed swine in the new facility. The facility will also reduce commercial fertilizer costs on my farm by use of the manure on the fields. Above all that, the biggest advantage is that it has brought my family together as my wife and kids play a big role in helping me care for the animals.”

**Ryan Mobley,
Clinton County**





Jonathan Tomlin, Brown County



Harold Neal, Pike County

"The grant program has been a tremendous resource for my operation. It has allowed me to make permanent improvements in respect to hay and equipment storage that will benefit not only me but my kids for years to come."

Jerrod Ferguson, Gallia County



Richard Hawk, Highland County



Drew Clark, Lawrence County



David Jamison, Adams County

Josh Jacobs, Clinton County



Mark Capper, Lawrence County



Bobby Moore, Adams County

Agricultural Society Program

In Fiscal Year 19, investments totaled \$100,000 in support of the Agricultural Society program.

The Agricultural Society Program is designed for the purpose of investing in agriculture, youth development and local communities. This program was offered to the major counties the Foundation serves to help invest in the long term education of youth and those involved with agriculture and youth development.

The SOACDF agricultural society grant is a two year process for completion with 50% of funds issued upon execution of the signed grant agreement and the final 50% issued when the project is

completed. In FY 19, SOACDF has currently issued \$100,000 to county agricultural societies to help with permanent improvements to county fairgrounds.



Scioto County Ag Society



Adams County Ag Society

"I can speak for the whole fair board when I say thank you for awarding us this grant. Our rabbit and poultry barn has been out dated and the grant off set the price of a new up to date barn that we needed. Our board members, exhibitors, and fair goers were all very happy with the new barn!"

Rob Seaman,
Scioto County Ag Society

Youth Development Program

In Fiscal Year 19, investments totaled \$125,000 in support of the CanTERS Cave 4-H program that supports the nine major counties and surrounding areas the Foundation serves.

The Youth Development Program is designed for the purpose of investing in youth development and local communities. This program was offered to CanTERS Cave 4-H Camp which offers services to the nine major counties and the surrounding areas the Foundation serves to help invest in the long term education of youth and those involved with youth development.

During FY19, the Foundation approved the total award grant of \$250,000 to be awarded to CanTERS Cave 4-H Camp. The Foundation issued 50% of this award during FY19 to help with the remodel of current structures, renovation of the Harrison Powell Lodge by adding HVAC system and the building of a new sleeping cabin along with restrooms.