



Call for Conference Proposals

2022 Sustainable Agriculture Education Association (SAEA) National Conference

Conference location: Ohio's landscape has been shaped by glaciers that filled ancient river beds with fertile soil, straddling the Ohio and Mississippi watershed to the south and the Great Lakes to the north and encompassing four major ecoregions. People have lived in Ohio for over 12,000 years, with long-term settlements by people now called the Adena (800-100 BCE) and Hopewell (100 BCE - 400 AD) mound building cultures. Since 800 AD, the land was shared among at least eight nations that included both Iroquois and Algonquian speakers, most of whom moved (or were moved) west in the early 1800's to escape persecution and crowding; no federally recognized tribes remain in Ohio although Indian people certainly do. The great lakes, great rivers, canals, railroads including the underground railroad (where Ohio was the last stop and meant freedom), and highways still result in a convergence of cultures from around the world.

Conference description: The 2022 SAEA conference will highlight the sharing of sustainable agriculture pedagogy across institutions, cultures, ecosystems, and generations. Through presentations, workshops, field trips, and ample networking opportunities, participants will share their theories, practices, and visions for integrating diverse cultural and ecological approaches to sustainability and resilience in agriculture and food systems. The conference invites participants representing any of the many occupations or areas of study in food and agriculture, including academic scholars, students, farmers, cooks, community organizers, land/resource managers and other professionals. Presenters may represent universities, colleges, farmer training organizations, allied businesses, and civil society organizations.

Call for proposals: We invite submissions for:

- Presentations - individual 12-15 min oral or poster presentations that address SAEA conference themes.
- Symposia - (1-2 hr) typically 5-8 presentations that address a particular topic from various

perspectives.

- Panels - (1-2 hr) typically 3-6 individuals form a panel that will discuss a particular topic and/or set of questions with each other and the audience.
- Roundtables - (1 hr) typically guided discussions among all participants
- Workshops - (1-2 hr) typically facilitated work on a particular topic in sustainable agriculture education by all participants, often with a specific goal or objective(s).
- Service projects - (1-2 hr) participants will work on a project that provides assistance or a service related to sustainable agriculture in a specific community or for identified beneficiaries.

We are particularly interested in proposals that directly address one or more of the four focal areas described below. Proposals may include teaching methods, educational case studies, curriculum and program development, career development, and/or the role of sustainable agriculture education in sustainability and resilience of multiple cultures, people and places. We will consider any applications that could contribute to the broad themes described below, and/or the goals and purposes of SAEA.

At the Crossroads: This conference track is inspired by the convergence of glaciers, ancient river systems, soils, plant and animal communities that characterize the ecological diversity found in Ohio, and the convergence of Indigenous, colonizing and diasporic cultures that have been sharing or colliding in Ohio for thousands of years. The track will focus on the exchange that takes place between institutions, cultures, economies, and ecosystems, at crossroads of various kinds, and how students prepare for navigating a future with economic, social and environmental justice and equity.

Flight and Freedom: This conference track is inspired by the lasting and impactful friendship between high school classmates Orrville Wright, who with his brother Wilbur developed not just a functional airplane but a system of pilot training that made successful and repeated flight possible, and Paul Lawrence Dunbar, one of the first internationally acclaimed African American poets. The track will focus on cultivating the kind of imagination that Dunbar eloquently shared, of a preferred future with an agri/culture offering just food, land, access, ownership, privilege that may seem impossible and may require repeated attempts and failures, like Wright experienced, but that leads to freedom, equity and justice for all people.

Common Ground: This conference track is inspired by how we have been learning to rebuild and regenerate the health of both the soil we rely upon in a literal sense to produce our food, and in a figurative sense the structures that our culture requires for food

sovereignty, justice, and equity. During the pandemic we have seen pockets of self-sufficiency, resilience and sustainability in landscapes that often resist their establishment, and this track will explore how we can share and continue to build on what we have learned.

Spanning Generations: This conference track was inspired by listening to and validating the experience of those who've met past challenges, traveled their own set of crossroads, and demonstrated resilience and sustained progress upon which future generations can build. The ongoing struggles of diasporic and formerly enslaved populations to build land-based wealth in Ohio are very different from the challenge of adopting sustainable and resilient agricultural practices in multi-generational Ohio farming families. This track will explore educational practices, rituals and traditions that facilitate or impede the transfer of sustainable agriculture knowledge and practices between generations.

As noted above, anyone is welcome to submit a proposal. We hope to have representation from a diverse cross-section of scholars, activists, researchers, educators, producers, practitioners, and food system leaders of all kinds, consistent with and building upon past SAEA conferences and our online convenings during the pandemic.

You are welcome to submit proposals for more than one session; however, each proposal must be submitted separately.

[SUBMIT A PROPOSAL](#)

Notes:

The conference agenda will include time for open space sessions, in keeping with tradition at SAEA conferences and offering an alternative to the pre-planned conference sessions requiring a proposal beforehand.

We plan to follow the COVID safety protocols in place at our universities. Currently, masks are optional and vaccination is strongly recommended.

Accommodations, transportation, scholarships, field trip itineraries and other conference details are forthcoming.