A simple, low-cost way to grow more food

High tunnels help farmers grow more food of higher quality, and Ohio Agricultural Research and Development Center scientists are working to widen their use.

Especially suited to small and urban farms, the simple, low-cost structures make the growing season longer. Inside, fruits and vegetables ripen earlier in spring and yield later in fall, with no need for fossil-fuel heat. “High tunnels translate into greater food production, greater food security and greater potential farm income,” said OARDC scientist Matt Kleinhenz.

At OARDC facilities in Piketon and Wooster and also on cooperating farms, Kleinhenz and OARDC colleague Brad Bergefurd are studying high tunnels, documenting their benefits and refining the best ways to use them. Then, they’re sharing their findings with farmers.

Thanks to their efforts, Dana Hilfinger of Urban Farms of Central Ohio said, “We’ve been able to market our produce earlier in the season, generating more revenue to support our mission and generally supporting central Ohio’s local food economy.”

More: hcs.osu.edu/vpslab

“We’re a nonprofit commercial farming organization providing fresh produce access to food-insecure individuals. We’ve used OARDC’s high tunnel research to increase our impact by providing high-quality produce for more months of the year.”

— Dana Hilfinger, farm manager, Urban Farms of Central Ohio
**OARDC: A LEADER IN AGBIOSCIENCE**

ag•bi•o•sci•ence (əgˈbi⁠əˌsi⁠əns) n. the integration of scientific disciplines to address critical needs of food security, safety and health; environmental sustainability; and biobased energy, fuel and products

Food Security, Production and Human Health

Environmental Quality and Sustainability

Advanced Bioenergy and Biobased Products

Ohio Agricultural Research and Development Center

As the research arm of The Ohio State University College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences, the Ohio Agricultural Research and Development Center (OARDC) employs nearly 650 scientists and staff members throughout the state.

Ohio State’s Wooster campus is the largest agbioscience research facility in the United States. OARDC scientists work closely with researchers in The Ohio State University Colleges of Education and Human Ecology, Medicine, Public Health, Veterinary Medicine, Biological Sciences, and Engineering.

At any one time, OARDC researchers are engaged in nearly 400 research projects. Primary focus is in three signature areas:

- Food Security, Production and Human Health
- Environmental Quality and Sustainability
- Advanced Bioenergy and Biobased Products

The Ohio General Assembly established OARDC as the Ohio Agricultural Experiment Station in 1882. It is supported by a line-item appropriation from the Ohio General Assembly, competitive grants, gifts, contracts, federal grants and other sources. OARDC uses these funds to provide direct research support and economic development for Ohio’s annual $100+ billion agbioscience industry. OARDC is not funded by student tuition or any other general funds of The Ohio State University.