

# Appalachia Accessible Food Network

## OVERVIEW

The Appalachia Accessible Food Network is a collaborative project to accelerate the distribution of local foods into Appalachian Ohio communities by strengthening access, production, and consumption components of a local food value chain, creating healthy food for all.

## PARTNERS



**The Appalachian Center for Economic Network (ACEnet)** has invested in the regional food system by serving as a business incubator, operating the Food Ventures Center as a community kitchen, and the Nelsonville Food Hub and Business Incubator to provide business planning, accessible and affordable production, cooler, and freezer spaces.



**Community Food Initiatives (CFI)** works to foster communities where everyone has equal access to healthy, local food including providing high quality, local produce to food pantries and agencies. They empower community participation and decision making in the food system through education on gardening, food preservation, seed saving, and healthy cooking.



**Rural Action**

**Rural Action's** Sustainable Agriculture Program works with stakeholders ranging from farmer to consumer, focusing on development of a regional food system through education and community organizing. They own and operate the Chesterhill Produce Auction, a social enterprise and key market for Appalachian farmers.

## Food Access

The **Donation Station** collects and purchases local food to increase availability of fresh foods at regional food pantries and agencies.

**Food Hubs** collect, distribute and market local foods into our communities and educate farmers, food entrepreneurs, and consumers.

**Farm to School** educates school stakeholders, facilitates purchases from farmers and coordinates processing and freezing at Hocking College and the SEO Foodbank and Regional Kitchen for year-round use.

**Farmers Markets** create direct sales opportunities for regional growers and access to local foods for consumers.

**Country Fresh Stops** partner with corner stores, colleges, and health providers to sell fresh produce to serve customers in places with low food access.

# IMPACTS

9,800 Square feet of food sector space and \$323,000 invested in **Nelsonville Business Incubator & Food Hub**

227 tons of food have been distributed through the **Donation Station**

**Chesterhill Produce Auction**  
131 producers \$256,166 total auction sales  
1,068 buyers

8 **Country Fresh Stop** sites have been established

**Farm to School** reaches 8 districts & 29 schools



*"Getting fresh produce every week is great-- it's fresher, tastes better."*

-Mona Taylor, Coordinator at Bishopville Food Pantry



*"ACEnet's Food Ventures Center in Athens allows food entrepreneurs to bypass the typical barriers of starting up a business so that they can gain complete access to the great local food economy that Athens has."*

-Adam Kody, ACEnet Kitchen Manager



*"The Chesterhill Produce Auction is a food hub providing fresh, local produce to Morgan County and beyond, with a vision of supporting strong, healthy communities where small family farms thrive and everyone has access to nourishing food."*

-Katelyn Eilbeck, Sustainable Agriculture & Forestry Program Manager



*"The donation station gives hungry people in the area access to something that seems so fundamental-- food that was grown near them."*

-Caitlin Garrity, Donation Station Manager, Community Food Initiatives

# CONTACT

**Carrie Carson**

Food Partners Access Coordinator  
94 Columbus Road  
Athens, OH 45701

740-592-3854 ext. 126



@acenetathens | @CommunityFoodInitiatives | @ruralaction



@ACEnetAthens | @AthensOhioCFI | @Rural\_Action



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