



Speaking at the OEFFA Conference: Details, Terms, and Conditions

Thank you for your interest in presenting at the OEFFA Conference! A diverse selection of excellent workshops is what makes the OEFFA conference special. All of us at OEFFA sincerely appreciate your support and passion for a more sustainable food system.

Below is information about OEFFA's workshop development process, format, and speaker benefits. Please read all of this information before applying to be a speaker. **OEFFA will consider a completed proposal confirmation that you have read, understood, and agreed to all of the information below.** When you are ready to complete a proposal, please follow the link provided at the end of this document to access the form.

The Basics

Conference workshop days: Friday, February 12 - Saturday, February 13

Workshop length: 60 minutes (50 minute presentation followed by 10 minutes for Q&A). *Please be prepared to have workshop attendees fill out a survey following your talk.*

Location: Wooster, Ohio (exact venue details coming soon)

Contact for questions: Riley Clayton, riley@lweventscbus.com

Deadline for full consideration: Monday, September 21, 2026

Workshop Development Process

OEFFA reviews all proposals based on the relevance of the topic to our attendees, the balance of the topic with other presentations (i.e., we try to avoid multiple presentations on the same topic), the recent history of the topic at conference (i.e., we may avoid topics already covered within the last two years), the qualifications of the speaker, OEFFA's history with the speaker (if any), and the thoroughness and clarity of the application.

Due to the high degree of interest in speaking at the OEFFA Conference, we cannot accept all the proposals we receive. There is a field in the submission form with space for previous rejected proposals to be reshared. All applicants who submit complete proposals will be informed of their status later this fall.



Multiple Speaker Sessions

Most conference workshops are led by a single speaker. We will consider requests for additional speakers on a case-by-case basis. In some instances, a co-presenter or panel discussion can add considerable value to a topic by diversifying the perspectives, and in other cases, additional speakers may reduce workshop quality by diluting the focus. **If you wish to have a co-presenter**, please have a clear idea of what that person is contributing to the workshop and why that contribution adds value for participants.

When completing a proposal with multiple speakers, please provide an email and phone number for all speakers involved so that OEFFA has a way to contact all participants directly. The proposal form includes a field for this information. If you have a co-presenter who does not use email, please provide a reliable phone number. OEFFA will not consider including speakers for whom we have no contact information.

Speaker Compensation

As a nonprofit, OEFFA strives to be the best possible stewards of the funds with which we have been entrusted as we work to fulfill our mission. The information below is meant to provide clarity for potential speakers on what to expect and *is subject to change based on the needs and resources of the organization*. Speakers chosen to participate in a workshop will receive a separate agreement confirming the details for their presentation for review and approval prior to OEFFA's engagement of those services.

All speakers will be given one (1) 2-day registration inclusive of meals. We expect to provide speakers with a small cash stipend to be used at the speaker's discretion to cover travel and lodging. We will share the dollar amount before finalizing accepted speaker agreements. Additional meals and registrations for companions or family members are available at the standard rate.

Recording and Photographing of Workshops

By submitting your proposal, you agree that your presentation, if chosen to be recorded, may be shared with attendees or other organizational partners, at OEFFA's discretion. OEFFA also reserves the right to archive any recordings for our records and internal use.



OEFFA photographs some, but not all, conference workshops. Your workshop may be photographed by our staff. Photos belong to OEFFA and reserve the right to be used in future promotion. Care will be given to avoid photographing members of the Plain community.

Endorsement of Products or Services

OEFFA sessions are for the purpose of education and are not to be used to sell products or services. We understand that many of our speakers represent farms, companies, or organizations with products or services to sell. Speakers are welcome to mention a suitable product, reference a trade show booth, or inform attendees of a future class--and we do not expect speakers representing a company to mention competing products. However, the products you sell must not be the focus of your presentation. Attendees are usually put off by presentations they perceive as infomercials, and complaints of this nature do appear in conference comments.

If you would like to sell a product at the OEFFA Conference, reach out to oeffa@oeffa.org for more information about being an exhibitor.

Community Standards

OEFFA is a big tent. The OEFFA Conference belongs to our members and attendees representing a diverse range of racial and ethnic backgrounds, lifestyles, sexualities, gender identities, political views, social values, and growing scales and practices. Our members are urban, suburban, and rural; women, men, and nonbinary; young and old; libertarian and socialist; Amish and atheist. We welcome farmers big and small, homesteaders, gardeners, activists, food entrepreneurs, students, academics, and everyone in between.

Please be respectful of the variety of viewpoints present in the room, including those of conventional, sustainable, transitional, and organic farmers. Avoid inappropriate behavior such as swearing, religious or political commentary, insensitive jokes, or disparaging other people, businesses, or organizations.

Please Read Before Applying



If you have any questions or concerns about any of this information included in this document, please contact Riley Clayton (riley@lweventscbus.com) prior to completing your proposal. OEFFA will consider a completed application as confirmation that you have read, understood, and agreed to all the terms and conditions outlined herein.

How to Apply

To receive full consideration, complete a proposal for each workshop using the online form by **Monday, September 21, 2026.**

We are grateful for everything you do to support sustainable and organic agriculture. The OEFFA conference is special because of the contribution of leaders like you. Thank you! Keep reading to learn more about what can make a good workshop.

Getting to Know Your Audience

We survey attendees after every OEFFA Conference workshop, and their feedback often reflects some common themes both in the praise and in the frustrations. Below are some suggestions based on this feedback.

Attendees really appreciate:

- **Handouts:** We do not require them, but comments often suggest that people like materials they can take home and reference. OEFFA can print and bring copies of up to ten pages (five sheets of paper, printed front and back) for your workshop.
 - All handout materials must be submitted to OEFFA at least two weeks prior to the conference. After this time, speakers will need to prepare and bring those materials themselves.
- **Pictures:** Visuals are a very effective way of communicating information at the conference. If you are giving a presentation on a practice you use on your farm, document it with lots of pictures and use the pictures in your slide show. Please make sure that any pictures you use are large enough, clear enough, and with enough contrast for attendees to see its subject.



- All presentations should be submitted to OEFFA at least one month in advance. We are unable at this time to accommodate on-site projection of presentations not previously submitted.
- **Practical information they can use on their farm, homestead, or garden:** Many people come to OEFFA looking for tools and techniques they can apply in the coming season. Think about specific actions that you can teach people to implement.
- **Presenters that use their time well:** Think about how much time you have and make sure you have the appropriate amount of information to fill it without running long. Attendees are often frustrated when presenters leave out information because they run out of time or end early because they failed to plan appropriately for their allotted time.
 - Timing yourself doing a practice run is a useful tool. Make sure you build in about 15 minutes for questions, and don't be afraid to cut off questions and move on to ensure you cover everything before the session ends.

Conference attendees are often disappointed by:

- **Workshops that don't match the description:** Before you write your workshop's description, take some time and really think about what information you plan on presenting and who your specific audience is, then accurately represent that in your description.
 - If you are still unsure of some details just do the best you can and, if your workshop is selected, you can update and edit in November and December.
- **Presenters that only promote their own product or service:** We understand that for many speakers raising the profile of their business is an important benefit of presenting at OEFFA's conference. This is fine, but it is essential that the goal of your presentation is education, not sales. When attendees feel like a workshop is more infomercial than education, they may leave with a poor impression of your product or services.
- **Presentations that ramble or appear disorganized:** When you plan your presentation, consider how each subject builds on the previous one and leads into the next. Put together an outline and have someone else review it. Practice the outline so you are comfortable with it and edit the outline if you find a transition awkward in practice. You may even consider practicing in front of a supportive audience.
 - Sharing the outline on a PowerPoint slide or a handout at the beginning of your presentation lets attendees know what to expect and how to follow along with you.



Workshops are the backbone of the OEFFA Conference. Thank you for taking the time to develop a quality presentation.