



# REPORT TO INDUSTRY

[CIFTINNOVATION.ORG](http://CIFTINNOVATION.ORG)



Manufacturing  
Extension Partnership



Development  
Services Agency

PART OF THE



MEP  
National  
Network™

# Our 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary



Building on CIFT's sound track record of providing a unique blend of business solutions, innovation and technical expertise for more than 20 years, the organization took considerable action to enhance our strengths for the future. Like any business, we have also been cognizant of the constant changes in the industries we serve. Through the efforts of our Governing Board, membership consortium, and many important stakeholders and partners, we stay informed and connected to an extensive network of professionals. Thanks to my experienced and dedicated staff, we have held steady with our strategic plan, and appreciative of all that has been achieved.

The audience we serve is impressive - more than 1,100 companies and 75,000 hard-working employees across the state among the food and agriculture industries. In addition, because CIFT also serves as a partner in the Ohio Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP), we provide assistance to the entire

excited to welcome Cynthia as she brings a unique perspective to help CIFT advance the strategic plan and enhance value to our stakeholders.

Beyond the business elements, it was a pleasure for CIFT employees to assist the SeaGate Food Bank (Toledo, Ohio) through their "Stuff the Truck" tradition to provide Thanksgiving food for northwest Ohio families. By supporting the mission of the SeaGate Food Bank, the team played a role in providing numerous food pantries and supporting programs with essentials for the holiday. Whether stewards of the community or technical advisers, it is CIFT's



Rebecca A. Singer  
CIFT President & CEO

## WELCOME

mission to serve those associated with any aspect of the food industry. There is more to peruse and learn throughout this report, and we want to hear from you. Please contact me directly

manufacturing segment in 18 northwest Ohio counties. That alone is more than 1,800 companies employing 107,000 people. This is certainly a great responsibility and privilege.

Metrics are continually measured by a third-party survey to demonstrate the value that CIFT has provided to a vast network of customers. The numbers are impressive over the last two years with more than 1,000 jobs created, over 3,400 jobs retained, increased sales of \$22 million, and cost savings reported of nearly \$120 million, respectively.

A key to success moving forward is a strong support system. This year we are honored to add Cynthia R. May, owner/CEO, Graminex, LLC, as the newest member of the organization's governing board. Ms. May joins the other members of the board to guide the organization and ensure the strategic direction remains aligned with the mission. Graminex is the world's leading producer of highly effective, highly safe, non-solvent flower pollen extract products for the pharmaceutical, nutraceutical, cosmetic, and food industries. I am

if you have any questions or comments. Thank you for giving us the opportunity to share this information with you, and may we work together in the future.

Sincerely,  
  
Rebecca A. Singer  
President & CEO  
CIFT





# MISSION

Driving competitiveness for our customers through a unique blend of business solutions, innovation and technical expertise.



Our team partnering with your team guided by:

- ▶ Integrity
- ▶ Passion
- ▶ Commitment

# VALUES



# SECTION ONE: FOOD

Many know us for our support and services in the Food Industry, but not as many understand how wide our scope truly is. From helping people who have a recipe and a dream launch a product to integrating cross functional teams to help multinational food companies address issues, we truly can help any stage food business. Our Membership Consortium brings together leaders and top companies to drive competitiveness and technological innovation. Additionally, our premier events provide education and networking on the most important trends and issues in the industry.

# Support, Training and Technology

CIFT continues to provide food safety training to support your food safety efforts and need to meet third party audit criteria. Training is offered throughout the year through public training events or customized in house training. We offer classes such as, but not limited to, PCQI, HACCP, Internal Auditing, GMP, FSVP and Intentional Adulteration (Food Defense & Food Fraud).

In addition to programming, one of CIFT's key components is Advanced Technology, where CIFT member companies and organizations are paired to perform feasibility or demonstration projects that explore the applicability of emerging technologies for their operations.



# New Investments and Products Lead to Increase in Jobs



JTM is a multi-million dollar, multi-faceted food processing company founded in 1960 originally as a butcher shop named Maas Brothers. In 1980, the company was renamed JTM Food Group to reflect the continued growth of the business. Today, the international company is still rooted in the same principles of the original butcher shop – quality and value. JTM, which serves about half of U.S. schools, provides products to more than 13 million K-12 students at 7,000-plus school districts nationwide. JTM offers more than 150 menu items and delivers a variety of finished food products. Beyond schools, the company targets kitchens in the healthcare and military markets, and looks to work with co-manufacturers and retailers calling for slim-down meal alternatives.



**\$800k**  
NEW INVESTMENT

**440**  
INCREASED/  
RETAINED JOBS

**\$600k**  
NEW PRODUCTS

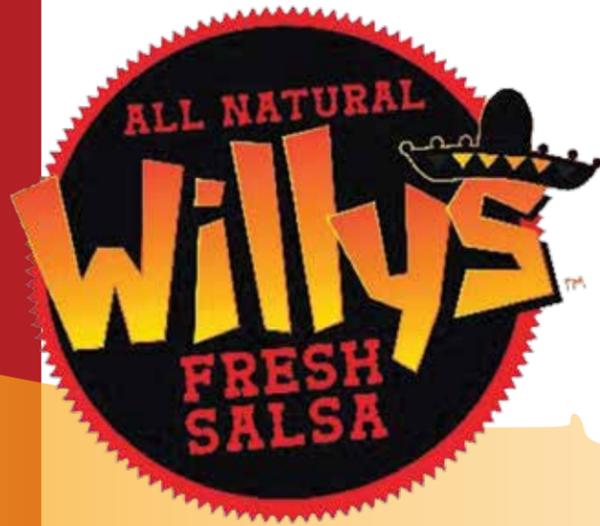


JTM needed to find a way to reduce the wastewater discharge at its facility. The company's beef cooking operation was identified as a main source of "upstream" wastewater generation, while the downstream waste was generated by the organic load of the water discharged to the municipal waste recovery facility. A feasibility study was needed to evaluate reduction of the volume discharged from JTM's facility as well as to evaluate reduction of the total load in the discharge stream. JTM partnered with CIFT for a project in collaboration with the Dale A. Seiberling Food Engineering Laboratory at The Ohio State University (OSU). Additionally, the Department of Food Science & Technology at OSU teamed with Membrane Specialists (Hamilton, Ohio) in an effort to find new and innovative applications for membrane technology in the food industry.

The work completed through this feasibility study and evaluations show that both reclamation of water from the food grade process, and the implementation of a reverse osmosis concentration operation at the end of the pipe, have the ability to reduce total amount of water and solids discharged from JTM's facility. Economic analyses performed by Membrane Specialists showed a three year return-on-investment on the installation of a membrane filtration unit at JTM's facility. The learnings from this project have the potential to be applied to any processing facility with an extremely high biochemical oxygen demand load in their effluent.

*"The MEP program is a critical factor in the success of manufacturing in Ohio. Rebecca Singer's leadership has benefited food manufacturers throughout the state."*

Joe Maas  
Co-owner & VP of Operations  
JTM Food Group



## Willy's Salsa Continues to See Success

After working with CIFT and successfully completing their initial BRCS certification audit in early 2017, Willy's Fresh Salsa has experienced remarkable growth. Prior to obtaining GFSI certification, Willy's Salsa was available in 14 states and approximately 1,200 grocery stores.

Currently Willy's is available in all 50 states and over 8,500 stores. In addition, Willy's Fresh Salsa has been recognized as one of the fastest growing private companies in the United States by making the 2019 Inc. 5000 List at #651 with a three year accumulated growth of 679%.



**RANKED #1**  
OHIO FOOD &  
BEVERAGE COMPANIES

**RANKED #12**  
OVERALL IN OHIO

**RANKED #21**  
NATIONAL FOOD &  
BEVERAGE COMPANIES

**BRCS**

Food Safety

CERTIFICATED

### PRIOR

- ▶ Available in **14** States
- ▶ Available in **1,200** Grocery Stores

### NOW

- ▶ Available in **50** States
- ▶ Available in **8,500** Grocery Stores

## Hummus Company Leans on CIFT for Expansion

Darista Dips is on a mission to delight eaters with food inspired by cuisines from around the world. The company started as a result of owner Dara Schwartz and her global travels where she immersed into local cultures and became part of communities through the lens of food.



Darista Dips attended CIFT's annual Ohio Food Industry Summit, and learned more about CIFT's knowledge in HPP technology. The timing was perfect, given the testing issue that the company was facing. CIFT was able to work with Darista Dips to provide the resources for testing, and almost immediately landed 50 accounts with this innovation, and on-boarded four new distributors. Schwartz firmly believes that it would not be in existence today if it were not for CIFT.



Darista Dips had a strong product with great traction following, and huge growth opportunity. Schwartz knew the company needed High Pressure Processing (HPP) technology in order to survive and grow, but as a small business, it did not have the funds or resources to test its products via this method. HPP is an innovative technology that uses extremely high pressure, isostatic cold water to neutralize bacteria without the use of additives. Costs for testing were more than \$65,000 to know whether the technology even worked on their product(s). However the company realized that it might have to shut down all together if it did not go forward with the testing.



CIFT was able to work with Darista Dips to provide the resources for testing, and almost immediately landed 50 accounts with this innovation, and on-boarded four new distributors.

# Helping Develop the Workforce of Tomorrow – Today

## Teacher Workshop Introduces Food Industry Credentials to Ohio Teachers

CIFT hosted a workshop for Ohio teachers to give an opportunity to complete hands-on activities in conjunction with the new food industry credentials for high school students across the state. Ohio Soybean, AgCredit and GrowNext Gen were all active sponsors of the two-day event that allowed teachers to make food products at the NOCK.

CIFT's two industry-recognized credentials, accredited through the Ohio Department of Education, verifies that a high school student has expertise in the areas of agriculture, food and natural resources, bioscience, food science and safety, bioresearch and food marketing and research.



To be eligible for the CIFT Food Industry Associate credential, a student must complete 120 hours of training combined with 100 hours of hands-on experience.

For the CIFT Food Industry Specialist credential, a student must complete 480 hours of training and 500 hours of hands-on experience.

*"The demand for skilled workforce is a growing concern for food companies. The CIFT student credentials provide a welcomed solution to this need, and we look forward to working with academic institutions as well as companies employing the participants in an effort to enhance the industry."*

Rebecca Singer  
President & CEO  
CIFT

As these students enter the workforce, CIFT encourages companies to seek candidates who have acquired the credentials.

### Ohio Is One of the Nation's Leaders in Food/Beverage Processing & Agribusiness

The state consistently ranks among the highest output in the nation in dairy, fruits and vegetables, bakery, snacks, soft drinks, coffees, sauces, syrups and countless other food products.

NEARLY  
**1,100**  
FOOD & BEVERAGE  
COMPANIES  
ACROSS OHIO

OVER  
**60,000**  
OHIO CITIZENS  
EMPLOYED IN  
FOOD INDUSTRY

**\$24 Bil**  
FOOD PRODUCTS  
SHIPPED  
EVERY YEAR

## Leadership & Collaboration Throughout the Food Industry

The CIFT membership consortium is the foundation of our organization and the core component of our industry engagement. The goal of the consortium is to enhance the economic viability of Ohio's food and agricultural sector through advanced technology, commercialization projects and job creation. Since its inception, more than 70 companies and institutions have been members.

## Synergy Increases Investments & Jobs



Synergy in Hamilton, Ohio, is a leading global manufacturer and supplier of flavorings, extracts and essences for the food and beverage industries.

Their capabilities span the globe – not only with three manufacturing and technical support facilities in the U.S., but also locations in Brazil, Ireland, U.K., and Thailand. As a result of the CIFT membership alone, Synergy has increased their product/process investment by more than \$25,000, added jobs, and enjoyed several thousands in savings along the way.

**<\$25,000**  
PRODUCT/PROCESS  
INVESTMENT

**JOBS ADDED**  
**THOUSANDS**  
IN SAVINGS

## Ohio State Hosts CIFT Members for Collaboration

CIFT members met in central Ohio to enjoy a behind-the-scenes tour of the College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences (CFAES) at The Ohio State University as part of an ongoing initiative to learn more about the capabilities of members, allow for close networking with other food manufacturers, and the chance to learn more about services provided to the consortium.



## Member Appreciation

The beautiful Culinary Vegetable Institute in Milan, Ohio, has served as the site for CIFT's Member Appreciation event. Inventor and innovator Dr. Barry Kudrowitz presented to guests and shared fascinating history and stories to inspire innovation. Also highlighting the day was John Lowe, CEO, Jeni's Splendid Ice Creams, who shared insights on innovation in the ice cream industry.

Several prominent Ohio food processors were highlighted, including the newest members:



Barry Kudrowitz  
Associate Professor &  
Director of Product Design  
Univ. of Minnesota Twin Cities



John Lowe  
CEO  
Jeni's Splendid  
Ice Creams



CIFT manages the Northwest Ohio Cooperative Kitchen, also known as the NOCK, located at the Agricultural Incubator Foundation (AIF) in Bowling Green, Ohio. This facility encourages and assists with the development of start-up food businesses. Entrepreneurs are provided technical, business and professional expertise necessary to take a concept and make it a reality.



## Shrub Beverage & Cheesecake Products Clinch Food Contest



CIFT and the Ohio Farm Bureau Federation sponsored the Ohio Signature Food Contest which showcases many new, innovative products ready to take that next step – actual product development. The winners were selected in recognition of their product concepts:

- ▶ **David Brooks** of Dublin, Ohio with his New York deli-style cheesecake: A rich, restaurant-quality cheesecake baked in a shortbread crust that incorporates Ohio ingredients – some of the freshest and finest anywhere, including rich, heavy cream and a unique blend of three vanilla extracts.
- ▶ **Amy Pausch** of Alexandria, Ohio with her non-alcoholic shrub beverage: An intense raspberry zero-proof drink with a subtly sweet caramel flavor that comes from unique ingredients including coconut sugar and a dark balsamic vinegar.

Following a review of written applications and presentations by food entrepreneurs and chefs to a panel of judges, the highest scoring concepts were selected based on the viability of the product, commercialization potential, business strategy, and overall appeal to the marketplace.

As a result of the award, technical assistance from CIFT is provided to the startup businesses ranging from business planning, product/process development, shelf stability testing, labeling review, regulatory assistance, and batch product preparations for sampling. Later, production may take place at the NOCK



## Angry Irishman Wins Award

**ANGRY IRISHMAN** Angry Irishman Hot Sauce, manufacturer of 10 unique, handcrafted, Ohio-made hot sauces, mustards, barbecue sauces and dry rubs, was honored with the CIFT Excellence Award. The award is in recognition of exceptional achievement in the development of the food company and the contribution to the industry and state of Ohio.

“We are very excited to receive this award for our achievements,” said Kevin Mackey, president and CEO, Angry Irishman Hot Sauce. “Because of the ongoing assistance from CIFT we are looking at the next big phase for the business, and look forward to continued growth and expansion.”



## The 2019 Ohio Food Industry Summit

Among several impressive speakers, Shawn Houser-Fedor, Senior Director, Chocolate and Packaging Research Development, The Hershey Company, discussed “Hershey’s latest innovations and portfolio expansion” at the Ohio Food Industry Summit, hosted by CIFT.

The Ohio Food Industry Summit is a full day where companies can discover new techniques, learn of innovative trends, and identify valuable resources that will strengthen one of Ohio’s already strong and vital industries.

Event sponsors AEP Ohio, Alloway, Avure Technologies, Bob Evans Farms, Bollin Label Systems, Campbell Inc., City of Defiance (Ohio), Cold Jet, Cooper Farms, the jdi group, JTM Food Group, Ohio Development Services Agency, Ohio Manufacturing Extension Partnership, Regional Growth Partnership – JobsOhio, Revolution Group, Rockwell Automation, RSM, Sandridge Food Corporation, and Yost Foods, Inc./Food Basics hosted representatives from food manufacturers, academic partners, service providers, industry-related organizations, legislative offices, agricultural producers and more.



Shawn Houser-Fedor  
Senior Director, Chocolate & Packaging  
Research & Development  
The Hershey Company



### Featured Topics Included:

- ▶ Specialty Food and Mega Trends
- ▶ Technology in the Food Industry
- ▶ Innovations in Food through 3-D Printing
- ▶ Field-to-Fork Traceability Built on Blockchain Technology
- ▶ Cybersecurity in the Food Industry

# SECTION TWO: MANUFACTURING

Although known for our food expertise, we bring economic impact and solutions to the entire manufacturing sector in northwest Ohio as the regional contact for the Ohio Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP). Assisting companies with training opportunities to address workforce issues, and opening new market possibilities through certifications like ISO and Lean manufacturing principles are examples of support to manufacturers. Programs also help with energy efficiency assessments which deliver bottom line savings and a better environment for our partners.

## Alpha Coatings Enjoys Big Gains With Help from CIFT/Ohio MEP



Alpha Coatings Inc., was founded in 1990, and maintains offices globally, including its location in

Fostoria, Ohio, with 115 employees.

Alpha Coatings was challenged by two areas that were causing operational issues as well as communication issues within the facility. The shop floor was in need of organization, and additionally, there were very few measurable key performance indicators communicated to employees to help them understand how they were doing.

Alpha Coatings management met and were in agreement that a Lean implementation was necessary to improve these two areas.

**\$4.2 Mil**  
INCREASED/RETAINED SALES



**\$30,000**  
COST SAVINGS

**\$20,000**  
TRAINING

**\$40,000**  
NEW INVESTMENT

The company reached out to CIFT to provide onsite process education and hands on shop floor experience implementation of Lean principles and techniques. Employees were trained, and implemented 5S (a methodology used to sort, set in order, shine, standardize, and sustain) to assist with the organization of shop floor areas. In addition, MEP identified Key Performance Indicators to track and communicate to the shop floor. The results of the Lean work conducted for Alpha Coatings were significant, with the most noteworthy impact being more than \$4 million dollars in increased and retained sales as a result of this endeavor.

## Collaboration Leads to Innovation

Small and medium-sized manufacturing companies are critical to Ohio. As an Ohio MEP partner, CIFT is dedicated to helping our manufacturers excel through increased sales, job creation and generation of cost savings from technological innovation, workforce training and improved management practices.

Over the past year, CIFT has worked with numerous manufacturing companies, setting them up for success through third-party organizations that are just as committed to excellence. The following manufacturing success stories highlight just a few of our clients and how they are leading their industries.



**ROBOTIC  
TECHNICAL  
SUPPORT  
SERVICES, INC.**

## Cyber Security Compliance Saves Big



To keep up with the ever-changing cyber security requirements, RTSS needed an assessment of their current cyber security, along with implementation and documentation of any necessary changes.

The CIFT team conducted a cyber security assessment with a gap analysis that uncovered enhancement opportunities for national cyber security compliance and documentation. CIFT completed proper documentation and descriptions for the covered contractor information system operating environments to meet NIST 800-171 and DFARS requirements and gave informed recommendations for compliance planning.

**OVER \$9,500** COST SAVINGS | **OVER \$10,000** SAVINGS ON INVESTMENT | **OVER \$22,000** INCREASED INVESTMENT



**Alloway**  
Your Resource for Defensible Data

## Creating Cutting-Edge Technology



With increasingly more stringent pollutant limits, Alloway believed they needed to innovate their process by employing respirometry. They knew that using respirometry to study and evaluate municipal industrial wastewater treatment processes would benefit regulated communities and companies. So, a demand for designing and fabricating a mobile respirometry system exclusive to each customers' separate needs emerged. CIFT connected Alloway with The Ohio Energy & Advanced Manufacturing Center (OEAMC). OEAMC worked with Alloway to custom design and engineer a Mobile Respirometer System specifically for Alloway's needs.

**OVER \$100K** SAVINGS WITH INCREASED INVESTMENT | **OVER \$145K** INCREASED INVESTMENT | **OVER \$100K** OF UNNECESSARY INVESTMENTS AVOIDED



## Continuous Improvement Adds Huge Value

In order to grow the company and increase efficiencies, Rowmark wanted to assess and understand the product flow, material movement and volume profiles at their Findlay and Columbus, Ohio locations, while also understanding how those facilities interfaced with other facilities in the network.

Ohio MEP connected Rowmark with St. Onge Company to provide a closer look at their supply chain and internal interfacing network. St. Onge Company also compiled a data review and a design principles document for assistance with continuous improvement. The information obtained fed Rowmark's supply chain Kaizen event, operation reviews and discussions and enlistings of improvement opportunity scenarios.

**OVER \$1Mil** COST SAVINGS | **OVER \$1.2Mil** INCREASED INVESTMENT | **5 NEW JOBS** CREATED



## Advancing New Product to Market

AP Alternatives was gearing up to introduce a new product line to their customers around the world called Titan. Titan would be a new racking system that takes advantage of more cutting-edge design aspects.

CIFT partnered AP Alternatives with the jdi group, Inc for engineering consulting. The jdi group, Inc did a comprehensive investigation of the structural feasibility and durability of the designed systems and provided professional engineer sealed documents to support aforementioned designs. All necessary checks, analysis and evaluations were completed to verify the new Titan system and get it ready to go to market.

This collaboration allowed AP Alternatives to grab a foothold in the emerging solar markets around the globe that are ideal for the Titan system, ultimately increasing their customer base and revenue.

**OVER \$300,000** INCREASED INVESTMENT IN NEW PRODUCTS AND PROCESSES





## Internship Program Fills Workforce Needs

The Ohio MEP joined forces with northwest Ohio high schools to identify students who have studied and developed manufacturing-related skills throughout an internship program. The program assists manufacturers with their workforce needs and provides financial assistance for hiring local high school and career technical students as interns. Companies receive cash-back for 50% of student wages, up to \$1,500 per student.

**Roughly 80% of interns placed were employed at the end of their internship.**

## Robotics Workshop

A workshop was held to introduce Automation in Manufacturing to give companies actionable information to begin ideating and planning projects utilizing automation. APT Manufacturing Solutions and Robotic Technical Support Services, along with the Ohio MEP, provided experienced leaders and demonstrations to share the latest in automation and robotics.



## Manufacturing Day Bus Tour

To celebrate Manufacturing Day CIFT conducted a tour to showcase a cross section of northwest Ohio manufacturers and the possible careers they represent for students graduating from high school. We invited counselors and teachers from across northwest Ohio.

*"It was wonderful to see our local manufacturers and see what opportunities are available to students after they graduate."*

A Northwest Ohio Teacher attendee

Manufacturing is a growing and important part of the economy both in our state and around the nation. It also represents great opportunities for high paying and rewarding careers. And for every \$1.00 spent in manufacturing, another \$1.89 is added to the economy.

We took our tour to five different manufacturers: **Lott Industries**, **Owens-Illinois (O-I)**, **Bollin Label Systems**, **Garlic Expressions**, and **Marsha's Buckeyes**. The feedback we received to these essential jobs as careers was overwhelmingly positive.

## Helping Companies Reduce Energy Expenses



By hosting a webinar, "Decreasing Energy and Operations Energy Costs" details on the cost reduction benefits of utilizing envelope enhancements and retrofits in manufacturing plants was shared. Energy efficiency is often one of the major factors in manufacturing operations and can dramatically affect costs. Attendees gained actionable information to apply at their facilities to help control the bottom line.

# SECTION THREE: AGRIBUSINESS & LOCAL FOOD SYSTEMS

A core belief at CIFT is an understanding and promotion of the farm to fork process. Understanding where and how we get our food, along with the latest technologies to do so is an integral part of a healthy and growing food system. In working with local farmers and growers to explore new opportunities for growth and hosting events like the Northwest Ohio Agricultural Business breakfast, key players are brought together for networking and educational opportunities on the latest in market and technological issues. The Agribusiness and Local Food Systems initiatives deliver feasibility studies, coordinate demonstrations of technologies, and evaluate alternative crop applications.

# Advancing the Bioeconomy



CIFT, in partnership with the Agricultural Innovation Technology Partnership (ATIP) Foundation and numerous business and industry participants, are investigating and evaluating the potential for development

of a bioeconomy in the Ohio counties which drain into the West Basin of Lake Erie through the Maumee River watershed. By collecting data on numerous waste streams in the area, results will be presented to entities with technology and business models for a cohesive economic development platform.

The goal is to quantify the feedstocks, evaluate the technology, identify gaps in the supporting infrastructure and determine which may pose potential solutions to management of excess nutrient loads into the regional watershed and ultimately improve water quality.

# Specialty Crop Handling & Processing

In an effort to explore additional growing and processing techniques, CIFT conducted demonstrations across the northwest Ohio region in hoop house building and growing strategies, LED lights for growth optimization, vertical growing systems, trellis growing systems, and blanching and freezing techniques and equipment expertise. Working with local organizations, and funding through the Ohio Department of Agriculture Specialty Crop Block Grants, projects are being executed to explore potential for new growth opportunities for our state's growers. CIFT has been able to provide technical expertise through outreach, experience and leadership in reintroducing and diversification of specialty crops.



In response to the ban of black currants in 1911, due to their carrying of a disease fatal to the white pine tree, CIFT is managing a demonstration project for the cultivation of black currants as a new specialty crop encouraging diversification. Several varieties of black currants resistant to white pine blister rust are now available

for purchase, enabling growers to revitalize currants as a crop. This project will entail growing and harvesting currants, researching their market viability, and holding training sessions for growers to acquaint them with the particulars of cultivation. Currants can be used in a plethora of ways: as jams, sauces, syrups, candies, and fruit drinks. In fact, CIFT has worked with Ohio microbreweries interested in their use as flavoring. When this project is completed, another goal is to expand the market for Ohio-grown currants and establish them as a feasible and lucrative crop for specialty crop growers.

CIFT is continually interested in working with growers, educators, and producers and looking for new ways to demonstrate techniques, products and opportunities in agriculture and food production.

# Grower Meeting Assists Ohio Farmers



Agricultural professionals in Ohio took part in a meeting to assist with operation efficiency. Experts spoke on the application of cost-saving lean principles for agriculture, farm succession, and the effects of the new tax law upon growers.



Paul Croy



Matt Long



Troy Wildermuth

# U.S. Senator Brown Advisor Talks Farm Bill



Jonathan McCracken, Senior Policy Advisor to U.S. Senator Sherrod Brown, presented an overview of the 2018 Farm Bill and what it means for Ohio farmers, the Western Lake Erie Basin and the future of American agriculture, at a Northwest Ohio Ag-Business Breakfast Forum.

The 2018 Farm Bill provided numerous updates to commodity programs – including improvements to the dairy program – increases in trade and export promotion programs, historic investments in water quality, and continued support for the research necessary to address the most challenging problems in the agricultural sector.





This report highlights only a few of the programs and initiatives delivered by CIFT. For more details on any of these or other activities, feel free to reach out to any CIFT team member. Thank you for your interest, partnership, and role in various aspects of the food industry.



## CIFT Membership (As of Early 2020)

 3i Solutions Wooster, Ohio	 American Dairy Association Midwest Columbus, Ohio	 Amish Wedding Foods Millersburg, Ohio	 Avure Technologies Middletown, Ohio	 The Chef's Garden Huron, Ohio
 Cleveland Whiskey Cleveland, Ohio	 Cooper Farms St. Henry, Ohio	 FlexPAC Indianapolis, Indiana	 Graminex Deshler, Ohio	 Great Lakes Cheese Co., Inc. Hiram, Ohio
 Henny Penny Eaton, Ohio	 Hirzel Canning Company & Farms Toledo, Ohio	 the jdi group, Inc. Maumee, Ohio	 Jones-Hamilton Co. Walbridge, Ohio	 JTM Food Group Harrison, Ohio
 Lakeview Farms Delphos, Ohio	 Lean Manufacturing Solutions Cincinnati, Ohio	 Matrix Sciences Columbus, Ohio	 Matrix Technologies Maumee, Ohio	 Nestlé Quality Assurance Center NOAC Dublin   Dublin, Ohio
 Ohio Corn & Wheat Growers Assoc. Delaware, Ohio	 Ohio Farm Bureau Federation Columbus, Ohio	 Ohio Soybean Council Worthington, Ohio	 THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF FOOD, AGRICULTURAL, AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES The Ohio State University Columbus, Ohio	 Owens-Illinois Perrysburg, Ohio
 Rockwell Automation Mayfield Heights, Ohio	 Rudolph Foods Company Lima, Ohio	 Sandridge Food Corporation Medina, Ohio	 Spartan Chemical Company Maumee, Ohio	 SugarCreek Washington Court House, Ohio
 Synergy Flavors Hamilton, Ohio	 True Label, Inc. Toledo, Ohio	 Willy's Fresh Salsa Swanton, Ohio	 Wyandot Inc. Marion, Ohio	

## Governing Board Members

### CIFT Board of Trustees Chairman

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Manufacturing  
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AN OHIO  
MEP PARTNER

