

CHESTERHILL PRODUCE AUCTION



FINANCE FUND INVESTMENT IMPACT:

- Updated refrigeration equipment for transport of locally grown fresh produce across 11 Southeastern Ohio Counties
- Improved nutrition and stability of local food economy in Morgan County and surrounding region

Finance Fund’s Healthy Food for Ohio (HFFO) Supports Local Growers and Buyers in Southeast Ohio

Finance Fund’s HFFO programming enabled Chesterhill Produce Auction to better serve local growers and customers in 11 Southeast Ohio counties. Grant support administered by Finance Fund provided modern refrigeration equipment critical to the transport of locally-grown produce in and around Morgan County.

Because of the HFFO grant provided through Finance Fund, Southeastern Ohio farmers participating in the Chesterhill Produce Auction can now better transport food to the auction itself as well as to the benefit of their Buying Club Members, to Country Fresh Stops (schools, hospitals, convenience stores, and other retailers that sell Chesterhill produce), and to Farm to School operators. Chesterhill Produce Auction, a program administered by regional economic development agency Rural Action, plays a critical role in growing the local food economy and contributing to the health and wellness of Southeastern Ohioans regardless of income limitations.

“During the pandemic, our ability to deliver this produce became even more important. Support from HFFO is helping us to update the refrigeration unit on one of our trucks, which is critical to maintaining access to fresh food for people in the region, and for farmers to connect to markets. This program is a smart investment with multiple returns in terms of market access and improved nutrition and all that flows in terms of better health outcomes.”

– Debbie Phillips, Executive Director of Rural Action

The small town of Chesterhill, located in southern Morgan County, experiences many of the same challenges as much of Appalachia. Of the 289 residents, 26% are in poverty and 16% are food insecure. If you drive across a 25-mile radius from Chesterhill’s town center, you will find no grocery stores and few places to buy fresh produce.

HFFO provides flexible financing to fund costs associated with land acquisition, predevelopment, construction, equipment, infrastructure, and related expenses. Financing can be used for capital projects to build new healthy food retail or expand existing facilities in underserved areas. A wide range of projects are eligible for funding including grocery stores, neighborhood food stores, co-op markets, food hubs, farmers’ markets, meal delivery services, food nutrition education, and other innovations to drive food retail access to Ohioans that struggle to access fresh foods.

*Project Address: 8380 Wagoner Road
Chesterhill, OH 43278*

15th Congressional District
78th Ohio House District
20th Ohio Senate District

