



## HISTORY

The Waterman Agricultural and Natural Resources Laboratory was originally owned by Joseph Waterman, a prominent pioneer and agricultural figure in Franklin County, Ohio. Joseph's widow, Anna, titled the property to The Ohio State University on July 2, 1923. At that time, the land held five buildings: the original Waterman home, barns, and a corn crib. Since that original transfer, four smaller parcels have been added to the site, which is now 261 acres.

**John Lemmermen,**  
Dairy Facility Manager  
614-292-6759  
lemmermen.3@osu.edu

**Glenn Mills,**  
Field Operations Manager  
614-292-7234  
mills.168@osu.edu

**Matt Williams,**  
Turfgrass Facility Manager  
614-292-6264  
williams.1278@osu.edu



# WATERMAN AGRICULTURAL AND NATURAL RESOURCES LABORATORY

Hinds Photography

## WATERMAN TODAY



The Waterman Agricultural and Natural Resources Laboratory is a 261-acre demonstration and education site highlighting a range of agriculture and agricultural best management practices. Located on Ohio State's Columbus campus, Waterman encompasses a 100-cow dairy farm, 90 acres of research plots, demonstration gardens, a forested area and woodlot, intensive irrigated and nonirrigated crop and turfgrass research plots, and the Rothenbuhler Honey Bee Research Laboratory. It is a unique, rural environment within the limits of Columbus, the 14th largest city in the United States.

*"Nestled in the city, on Ohio State's Columbus campus, Waterman Lab is a 261-acre hub for teaching, research, and community engagement around food, health, agricultural production, and sustainability.*

*Waterman is a unique facility where we engage at a small scale in addressing many of the grand challenges facing the world today."*

*— Cathann A. Kress, vice president for agricultural administration and dean, College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences*



**THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY**

COLLEGE OF FOOD, AGRICULTURAL,  
AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

[cfaes.osu.edu](http://cfaes.osu.edu)

# WATERMAN'S EDUCATIONAL FOCUS

Waterman provides comprehensive research, teaching, and learning opportunities in the areas of turf science, dairy management, entomology, horticultural and agronomic production, food sciences, and much more. It is also used by Ohio State ROTC for training exercises; by entomologists for forensic studies; and by Franklin County Master Gardener Volunteers for flower and plant research. Students can also become involved as employees at Waterman. A student-run farm even provides produce for campus dining.

*Emphasis is placed on learning by doing, and Waterman expands the classroom from four walls to the entire outdoors.*

## KEY RESEARCH AND EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES

### GARDEN OF HOPE

The Garden of Hope is a community garden for cancer survivors and their primary caregivers. Research shows a direct



connection between dietary behaviors and cancer outcomes. The only program of its kind in the nation, the Garden

of Hope provides survivors with access to freshly grown fruits and vegetables that are rich in cancer-fighting properties. Crops available each season are selected to align with evidence-based guidelines.

A collaboration between The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center; Ohio State's Comprehensive Cancer Center – James Cancer Hospital and Solove Research Institute; and Ohio State's College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences, the 3-acre urban garden is a model for studies by other universities throughout the country.

### TURFGRASS FACILITY

A state-of-the-art research facility financed by the Ohio Turfgrass Foundation (OTF) is



the anchor of a diverse education, research, and outreach program in

turfgrass science. The facility prepares students for careers in golf turf, athletic field management, and lawn care. Hundreds of

turfgrass professionals from across the region gather each summer at the facility to learn about the latest trends in industry practices during the OTF/Ohio State Turfgrass Research Field Day.

### DAIRY FACILITY

At the Waterman Dairy Facility, high-quality, Grade A milk is produced from a herd of



Hinds Photography

100 registered Jersey cows. The dairy is supported by 122 acres of cropland and 45 acres of pasture in Columbus, Ohio. It is

used by several College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences departments and the College of Veterinary Medicine to support teaching, research, and outreach. The dairy provides part-time jobs for Ohio State students and can meet internship requirements. Two full-time managers work with the students, helping them gain experience in both general farm management and dairy herd management.

### RESEARCH PROJECTS

Among the many research projects conducted at Waterman are maize epigenetics, nursery propagation, soybean breeding trials, weed and insect studies, compaction and tillage studies, biofuel studies, a statewide pest monitoring program, beekeeping research, Master Gardener Volunteer programs, a backyard demonstration orchard and vegetable

garden, and forensic entomology. Research projects in turfgrass include multiple weed control studies, herbicide phytotoxicity, fertility and biostimulant trials, and pest control, among others.

### COLLABORATION AND INVOLVEMENT

Many Ohio State schools and departments use Waterman for research, teaching, and outreach activities. Additional involvement comes from agricultural organizations such as the Ohio Farm Bureau, Ohio Corn & Wheat Growers Association, Ohio Soybean Council, American Dairy Association Mideast, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Ohio Turfgrass Foundation, and university student clubs and organizations.

### OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY EXTENSION, FRANKLIN COUNTY

OSU Extension Franklin County, which has been headquartered in or near downtown Columbus for years, will soon relocate to Waterman. Thanks to a \$5 million gift from a generous county resident, groundbreaking for a new office took place on June 29, 2018.

The enhanced and more accessible facility will better support county residents of all ages and backgrounds, and will better meet the needs of 4-H youth development, family wellness, and urban agriculture programming in central Ohio.

Ohio State has plans to transform the Waterman facility into a research, learning, and outreach hub, and OSU Extension Franklin County is central to those plans.