A POTENT COMBINATION OF RESEARCH, TEACHING, AND LEARNING AT OARDC AND OHIO STATE ATI

The Wooster campus of Ohio State’s College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences encompasses more than 4,200 acres of agricultural land, including OARDC and ATI.

Research, teaching, and learning at the campus are supported by field research stations, livestock facilities, land resources, greenhouses, a golf course, and an arboretum.

Three signature OARDC strengths align with Ohio’s highest needs: Advanced Bioenergy and Biobased Products; Environmental Quality and Sustainability; and Food Security, Production, and Human Health. ATI provides educational programs leading to associate degrees in agriculture, horticulture, environmental sciences, business, and engineering technology; continuing education and workforce development opportunities; and transfer programs leading to bachelor’s degrees.
RESEARCH AT OARDC
Research program excellence makes OARDC a leading force of innovation and change. At any given time, more than 400 research projects are active.

AGRONOMIC RESEARCH
Agronomic crop research occurs at OARDC on 250 acres of land dedicated to intensive plot research of corn; soybeans; wheat; forages; cover crops; soil and water management; precision agriculture; and nutrient, weed, disease, and pest management. Highly skilled agricultural technical staff provide faculty support by planting and maintaining field crops and equipment according to experimental protocols. Staff also support Wooster-based USDA scientists.

SPECIALTY CROPS RESEARCH
Vegetable, fruit crop, grape, and hops research at OARDC farms reflect the diversity of agriculture across Ohio. Researchers work to strengthen Ohio farms and businesses, and to increase product value to end users by conducting studies ranging from insect, disease, and weed control to improving quality through cultural practices, canopy management, pruning, and training systems.

ORGANIC RESEARCH
The Organic Food & Farming Education & Research (OFFER) program provides science-based information to Ohio’s new and existing organic farmers. More than 80 acres of certified organic land are available for research near Wooster to investigate weed control, nutrient management, and variety performance of agronomic and specialty crops. Similar experiments are carried out on cooperators’ farms and at outlying research stations.

LIVESTOCK RESEARCH
Innovative livestock facilities for beef, dairy, sheep, and poultry are located within five miles of the Wooster campus. The poultry facility, the newest animal facility on the Wooster campus, has more than 36,000 square feet of housing for birds and is used for nutrition and management trials.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

FEED MILL
A state-of-the-art Feedstock Processing Research Facility affords OARDC the quality and precision of feed mixing needed to support its livestock and poultry research programs. Producing both general herd rations and specialty diets on-site boosts the quality of research and affords students hands-on experience with feed and grain handling.

GREENHOUSE COMPLEX
The research greenhouse complex is a state-of-the-art facility that is advancing plant research and strengthening agriculture in Ohio. The complex includes 14,400 square feet of space for greenhouse research and plant growth for laboratory-based research projects.

SECREST ARBoretum
OARDC is home to the 85-acre Secrest Arboretum, an outdoor laboratory and landscape garden. More than 7,000 people visit its serene gardens annually. Established in 1909, it contains more than 2,000 native and introduced species of trees, shrubs, and other plants. About 500 varieties of roses are also grown there.

GRACE L. DRAKE AGRICULTURAL LABORATORY
The agronomy and livestock programs are among the largest ATI programs, and the 1,700-acre Grace L. Drake Agricultural Laboratory (GDAL) is an integral part of both.

BEEF FACILITY
GDAL’s beef cattle handling facility is the first of its kind in Ohio. Designed by renowned animal behaviorist Temple Grandin, the facility helps students learn animal handling methods that are both humane and efficient. The facility includes a corral, a dual-chute system with a hydraulic squeeze chute, and sorting pens.

DAIRY FACILITY
The GDAL dairy facility includes a free-stall barn; a fully automated double-8 parallel milking parlor equipped with electronic identification and computerized milk-weight recording; and a computerized feeding system.

EQUINE CENTER
GDAL’s equine center consists of a 46-stall barn with foaling stalls, and a fully equipped breeding laboratory and breeding shed for hands-on instruction in foaling, breeding, and subsequent mare and foal care. The center also has two riding arenas and 18 lesson horses.

LAND LABORATORY
GDAL’s 815 tillable acres are planted with corn, soybeans, wheat, alfalfa, and mixed hay. Students gain hands-on experience with the cultural practices necessary to produce high-yielding forage and field crops.

SWINE FACILITY
ATI’s swine herd consists of 18 purebred and commercial Yorkshire sows. Students assist with the daily management of the herd and the facilities, including assistance with baby pig management, reproductive management, live animal evaluation, ultrasonics, and computerized recordkeeping.