



Event Recap:

SERC at the 2012 Ohio State University Farm Science Review

Shale energy is a topic of growing concern to many Ohioans, both rural and urban, and representatives from the Ohio State Subsurface Energy Resource Center and OSU Extension presented community information sessions at the 2012 Ohio State [Farm Science Review](#), held September 18-20, 2012 at Ohio State's 2,100 acre Molly Caren Agricultural Center near London, Ohio.

[Douglas Southgate](#), Agricultural, Environmental and Development Economics Professor and Associate Director of Ohio State's Subsurface Energy Resource Center, participated in a panel discussion detailing recent developments in shale energy in Ohio. The discussion also included three specialists from OSU Extension: Mike Hogan, OSU Extension Educator; Peggy Kirk Hall, Director of the OSU Agricultural & Resource Law Program; and Steve Schumacher, OSU Extension Educator. The group updated the audience on recent trends related to shale development in eastern Ohio, such as the construction of pipelines needed to transport natural gas from newly-drilled wells to customers in and around Ohio.

In his remarks, Southgate emphasized the primary impact of technological advances that have made shale development possible.

"In the food sector, the energy industry, and anywhere else in the economy, improvements in technology that are guided by market forces always benefit consumers more than anyone else, specifically in the form of lower prices," Southgate said.

He noted that the extraction of natural gas from shale, which began little more than ten years ago, have caused the gas market to "decouple" from the petroleum market. As a result, "gas prices have stayed consistently low in recent years even at times when oil prices have spiked above \$100 per barrel."

This year marked the 50th anniversary of the Farm Science Review, sponsored by Ohio State's College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences, OSU Extension, and the Ohio Agricultural Research and Development Center. Throughout its history, the Farm Science Review has been at the forefront of showcasing the future of agriculture and this year's Review did not disappoint – it offered thousands of participants the opportunity to interact with agricultural economists, farm management specialists and Extension educators from the Ohio State community.

To see more coverage of AEDE at the 2012 Farm Science Review, view [Ohio Farm Science Review panel discusses likely farm bill expiration](#) from Farm and Dairy, and [Expert: Drought might affect farm rents](#) from the Newark Advocate.

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