

MAUMEE VALLEY GROWERS

05 Activities/Accomplishments

- Identified approximately 80 growers in NW Ohio and communicate with them regularly via e-mail, fax, snail mail or phone
- Meet at TBG monthly with Membership of the Whole and the Advisory Group committee.
- In addition to the growers, several NW Ohio organizations participate such as USDA/ARS, UT Office of Research, CIFT, UT Urban Affairs, BGSU's Center for Regional Development, TBG, Toledo Grows, RGP, OSU Extension-ABE Ctr., OSU Extension-Toledo, Representative Kaptur's Office etc.)
- Selection of Champion – Dean Krauskopf
- Selection of branding company – Thread Inc.
- Support area agricultural organizations such as the OFA, Canadian Studies, Toledo Farmer's Market, City of Sandusky greenhouse facility planning and Metropolitan Detroit Flower Growers' Association
- Participate with members of UT's Master Plan committee with design and location options discussions regarding the new USDA/ARS campus greenhouse facility.
- Selection of cluster name – Maumee Valley Growers (MVG)
- Champion met directly with 27 growers in 05
- ARS Research Professor Jonathan Frantz has rolled out and made available to growers the first phase of his software program "*Virtual Grower*" designed to create "what if" greenhouse energy use scenarios.
- Met with the Brooks Insurance and Ferrell Gas Company to determine if a collaborative purchase agreement could be established
- Created and distributed an energy usage questionere for the MVG. The data will be used to assist both Brooks Insurance and Ferrell Gas with their proposals.

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06 Activities

In addition to on-going items initiated last year...we will

- Host USDA representatives from Wooster; Bob Kosar, Dr. Benfield and Dr. Ravlin & Greenhouse Cluster growers which includes tour of UT's Plant Science facility.
- Increase grower membership participation
- Work closely with Rep. Kaptur in creating community awareness by participating in many the areas agricultural activities, festivals and events
- Promote "*Buy Local*" with all political and educational subdivisions
- Promote "Flower Days" during the Memorial Day weekend
- Prepare 07 grant application for submission
- Develop strategies that identify and encourage a self-sustaining long-term membership program
- Initiate MVG interaction and reporting with other cluster groups such as Alternative Energy, ITI, IT, Automotive and Materials