



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.

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