Dear Southwest Region Educators and Staff:

I hope you are enjoying our beautiful weather! Have you noticed subtle signs that autumn will arrive early?

**Extension Director Interviews** – I hope to see many of you at the two Director interviews on Wednesday August 12 at 9am and 2pm at the 4-H Center or watch on line or listen to a recording and send in your comments. The third interview is Wednesday August 19 at 9am.

**MOU Signing** – August 13, 2015 will be a historic date! At 11:30am-12:30pm that day a ceremony and signing of an MOU will be held between The Ohio State University and Central State University furthering the Land Grant system. The event takes place at CSU.

**Regional Survey & Planning** – Southwest Region EERA program leaders will be meeting from 9am-Noon on Thursday, August 27 to plan Regional programs and trainings for the coming year. In preparation for that meeting you all will receive a survey asking for your input on your program and training needs. It will be due to Carol Bottoms on August 24. Please share your needs and ideas.

**Autumn Visits** – It’s that time of year again for check in visits and self reviews! County Directors should schedule visits with all support staff and program assistants sometime during the next couple months. CEDs will receive a note to schedule a day when I can meet with each Educator.

**Position Opening** – We will be filling the Greene County ANR Educator position. It will be posted in September. Please encourage eligible candidates to apply.

**Newsletter Notes** – I hope you are enjoying learning about our Southwest Region Educators each week. Today you can get to know Mark Badertscher, Harding County ANR Educator.

**Please send us pictures and information about your great programs so we can put them in the newsletter! I’m also glad to have upcoming dates that I can visit if I am in the area.**

Cherish every moment!
Barb
Happy August Birthdays…

- August 1 Pat Brinkman-Extension Educator/CED, Fayette County
- August 3 Cindy Meyer-Extension Educator/CED, Butler County
- August 4 Greg Meyer-Extension Educator, Warren County
- August 5 Jo Lankenkamp-Office Associate, Darke County
- August 11 Diane Barga– Program Coordinator, Darke County
- August 19 Betty Wingerter-Extension Educator/CED, Montgomery County
- August 21 Virginia Foulke- Program Assistant, Clark County
- August 24 Paula Blunt-Program Assistant, Montgomery County

“The true measure of a man is how he treats someone who can do him absolutely no good.”
Ann Landers

“It takes less time to do the right thing than to explain why you did it wrong.”
Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

“I arise in the morning torn between a desire to improve the world and a desire to enjoy the world.”
E. B. White

Easy Ways for Teams to Celebrate

Select a special day and ask each team member to give a “gift from their heart” (poem, art work, meaningful article, etc.) to every member of the team. This sharing provides a glimpse of the “whole” individual and creates a lasting memory to other team members.

Barb Brahm’s Schedule

- August 10 Campus
- August 11 Fayette/Director Interview
- August 12 Director Interviews
- August 13 Dayton/Central State
- August 14 Delaware
Mark Badertscher began his Extension career in June 2013 as the Agriculture and Natural Resources Educator in Hardin County. Previously, Mark taught high school agriculture and was a FFA Advisor for 25 years. He grew up on a grain and livestock farm in northwest Ohio and holds two degrees from The Ohio State University, including a Bachelor of Science in Agriculture and a Master of Science in Agricultural Education. His area of specialization is Agronomic Crops and he enjoys being out in the field doing on-farm research.

One of the things that Mark really enjoys about Extension is the opportunity to learn new things and work with so many different people who have similar interests. He attends as many professional development trainings and field days as he can, to stay up to date on the latest developments and technology in agriculture. It is not uncommon to find him at several commodity group and other agricultural meetings each week because he believes that the best way to find out the needs of clientele is to network with them and stay up to date with what is happening in Hardin County agriculture.

Like many other Extension personnel, Mark is a huge Buckeye football fan. He attends OSU football games each fall and has traveled to several bowl games, including three national championships. His involvement with Ohio State does not just encompass athletics and work, as he shares his Buckeye Pride and common interests serving as the president of both the OSU Alumni Club of Hancock County and also the Ohio Staters, Inc. Alumni Society.

When he is not busy with work, attending meetings, and going to OSU football games, Mark is engaged in technology and travel. He insists on keeping his life synced on Apple devices and plans to join the Ohio Sheep Improvement Association on an international sheep tour this fall to England, Scotland, Wales, and Ireland. Working for Ohio State University Extension has been a great change of pace for him, and he looks forward to coming to work each day to make a positive difference with the people he serves.
Welcome . . . to Glenda Strickland who joins the CFAES HR Department as a new HR Associate. She is replacing Laura Keesor who moved to the business center. To view the most recent contact information for the CFAES HR Team assigned to Extension, click here.

**OSU Extension Director Interviews . . . (Source: Dean McPheron)**

We have arrived at an important step in the process to identify and select the next Associate Dean and Director for Ohio State University Extension. I'm pleased to share with you that the search committee has identified three dynamic candidates who have agreed to participate in on-campus interviews in the coming weeks. Throughout the process, we have enjoyed tremendous interest by highly qualified candidates, and the three who have emerged for campus interviews truly represent the types of individuals we have been seeking.

We will update our website and share additional information about the candidates the day prior to the public presentations. It is important that we respect the candidates current employment situation and allow them to continue their professional responsibilities with the least amount of interruptions as they prepare for their visits. Following are the dates and times for the public presentations that will also be streamed live:

**Candidate A:** August 12 - 9:00am with reception immediately following in the 4-H Center
**Candidate B:** August 12 – 2:00pm with reception immediately following in the 4-H Center
**Candidate C:** August 19 – 9:00am with reception immediately following in the 4-H Center

This is a tremendously exciting time for our college and for Ohio State University Extension! I recognize there are many events and activities happening this time of the year, but I do hope that you will spend time participating in the presentations of these outstanding candidates.

My thanks to the search and screen committee for their exceptional work in getting us to this point.