Southwest Region Forum
August 17, 2015

OSU attendees at signing of MOU with Central State University.

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Dear Southwest Educators and Staff:

Greetings! I sense last week was another busy and productive week! We had visits from President Drake in the Region, and the Signing of the MOU between The Ohio State University and Central State University as CSU became an 1890’s Land Grant University. (See pictures at end of this newsletter.)

In the ANR world, Congrats to Ken Ford, Tony Nye and Pat Brinkman on an excellent Southwest Corn Grower’s Field Day in Fayette County with more than 250 attending. Over in Darke County over 240 folks participated in the Manure Science Review with Sam Custer hosting the event and working with Glen Arnold, Amanda Bennett, Dennis Riethman, Deb Brown and Amanda Douridas. (See pictures at end of newsletter.)

Regional Survey
Everyone should have received a survey on the Regional trainings and events needed for the coming year. Please return the survey to Carol Bottoms (bottoms.6@osu.edu) by next Monday, August 24.

Director Interviews
It was great to interview Michael Schmitt of Minnesota and Roger Rennecamp of Oregon for the Director of Extension position. This week, Paul Brown of Alabama will join us for an interview. If you cannot attend, please watch the videos and send in your comments at Curriculum Vita available on the search website; Live Stream: https://youtu.be/-VlcEooyJcg; Evaluation Form: https://go.osu.edu/FeedbackBrown.

Video Workshop
Don’t forget to register for the Video Workshop to be held by the Ed Tech group in Dayton on September 10. Several of you have requested this training.

Ag Legislative Visits
Thanks to Laura Norris, Brian Raison, Tony Staubach, and Rebecca Supinger for hosting Ag Legislative visits this year. They were well received.

County Goals for 2015
As we continue to get our Southwest counties in top shape, I want to ask everyone to work on the following areas. (Many of you are already up to date!) Let’s try to have these tasks in order by December 31, 2015.
1) Each county should have a functioning overall Extension Advisory Committee with representatives from all program areas. For information, contact Barb.
2) Each Educator should have a functioning Program Advisory Committee/group for their program area.
3) All financial records and 4-H data should be up to date and filed according to state guidelines. Contact Barb for more information.
4) Operation procedures should be in effect according to state business office guidelines.

Remember...
Love like you mean it.
Show compassion like you feel it.

Sincerely,
Barb
"The struggle you're in today is developing the strength you need for tomorrow." Anon.

Deep breath. Stand up. Shake it off. We're in it together.

**Easy Ways for Teams to Celebrate**

This award goes to the team member who “sticks their neck out”, making it easier for other team members to fly.

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

The third presentation will be made Wednesday morning, August 19 at 9:00 a.m. (4-H Center) for another of the candidates for the OSU Extension Director position. A link to view Wednesday’s live streaming and candidate information can be found at [http://cfaes.osu.edu/about/from-the-vp/osu-extension-associate-deanand-director-search](http://cfaes.osu.edu/about/from-the-vp/osu-extension-associate-deanand-director-search) The Curriculum Vita information is available on the website for the two candidates who presented last week. We encourage you to attend the presentation and reception on Wednesday at the Nationwide and Ohio Farm Bureau 4-H Center or view the streaming video and provide feedback for all candidates.
Employee Spotlight...

Melanie S. Hart
Family and Consumer Sciences Educator
Greene County Extension

Melanie came to OSU Extension in 2007 after teaching high school Family and Consumer Sciences for six years. She received her Bachelor’s degree from Miami University in Family and Consumer Sciences and her MS from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro in Family Economics. She is currently a Ph.D. candidate at The Ohio State University in Adult Education.

Melanie currently heads the Healthy Finances Team, consisting of twelve Educators from across the state that develops financial curriculum and publications, and provides teaching and reference resources for other Educators to use in financial programming. Some members of the Healthy Finances Team, as well as other interested Educators across the state are conducting the Foreclosure Prevention Program, part of a contract between FCS and the Ohio Housing Finance Agency. The program delivers foreclosure presentations to inform groups who will spread by word of mouth, key contacts to make to receive assistance from HUD approved housing counselors at any stage of the foreclosure process. Melanie and other members of this group write foreclosure blogs for this program on Extension’s FCS Live Smart Ohio website.

Melanie’s community outreach and engagement includes teaching a weekly money management series at Ohio Means Jobs, Greene County to participants of job training programs and the general public. This year Melanie concentrated on growing the SNAP-Ed program in Greene County where she will soon supervise a Program Coordinator and four Program Assistants.

Melanie is married to John, a procurement attorney for the Air Force at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base. During his time on active duty the family (of four sons) lived in Colorado Springs, San Antonio, Washington, DC and Ramstein, Germany (for ten years) before landing in the Dayton area for his civilian job. Melanie enjoys traveling, reading, and sewing.
PHA Deadline Approaching, Leaderboard Available

Faculty and staff who were eligible for medical benefits before August 1, 2015, must complete a Personal Health and Well-Being Assessment (PHA) and biometric screening before September 30, 2015, in order to be eligible for full medical plan choice in 2016 through open enrollment. Completing these requirements will also provide faculty and staff with a $360 annual premium credit. As September 30 gets closer, check to see how your unit is tracking with PHA completions against this time last year. The leaderboard lists completion rates by department, excluding those with a headcount of 20 or fewer. Visit the YP4H website to view the leaderboard. Please contact the OSU Health Plan to schedule biometric screening events to support your faculty and staff.

Your Plan for Health (YP4H) helps faculty and staff meet their health goals, including having medical plan choice and a premium credit. Through the end of September, YP4H is sending targeted emails to those who have not completed the requirements.

What you need to do:
• Encourage faculty and staff to complete their PHA and biometric screening requirements.
• Visit the YP4H website to view the leaderboard.
Schedule a biometric screening event for your unit’s faculty and staff.