Barb’s Notes and Quotes...

Dear Southwest Region Educators and Staff:

I had a great time last week with several visits and activities! It was good to visit the Warren County 4-H Camp on my first trip to Camp Graham. I had visits in Clermont and Montgomery Counties, and enjoyed the “fair food” at the Greene County Fair. Thanks to everyone involved in the North American Manure Expo. I enjoyed my quick visit, but my was it HOT! It was also exciting to be part of the celebration at the Ohio State Fair Ag Breakfast where Keith Smith was inducted into the Agriculture Hall of Fame, along with Jack Fisher (Ohio Farm Bureau), Dick Isler (Ohio Pork Producers), and Tim White (Ohio Farmer Magazine).

**Autumn Visits for Educators**
Carol Bottoms will soon be sending out an email to County Directors with a choice of dates for each county’s autumn visits. I would like to talk with each Educator for around an hour or so. Please work together to choose a date. I also will spend a little time with other staff members.

Educators, it will be to your advantage to have your RIV up to date when I come! That will save you from entering data twice. We have shortened and tweaked the self-review form. If you have your RIV up to date, you will be able to skip the first few questions and just send a copy of your RIV. Be sure to include a draft of your 2017 goals. More details will come as you sign up with a date.

**Peer Teaching Reviews**
I would still like to do a peer teaching observation for each Educator this year. If I have not done an observation for you, please contact me with dates you will be teaching between now and the end of the year.

I guess that’s all for now. I’ll leave you with this thought . . .
“Shoot for the moon. Even if you miss, you will land among the stars!”

Sincerely,
Barb
Happy August Birthdays…

- August 1  Pat Brinkman, Educator/Director, Fayette County
- August 2  Trevor Corboy, Program Coordinator, Clermont County
- August 3  Cindy Meyer, Educator/Director, Butler County
- August 4  Greg Meyer, Extension Educator, Warren County
- August 5  Jo Langenkamp, Office Associate, Darke County
- August 7  Judy Skidmore, Office Associate, Logan County
- August 11 Diane Barga, Program Coordinator, Darke County
- August 19 Betty Wingerter, Educator/Director, Montgomery County

Southwest Region Forum

This past Friday, I attended my first Ohio Agricultural Council Hall of Fame breakfast at the Ohio State Fair. This year’s inductees – Jack Fisher, Dick Isler, Keith Smith and Tim White – are a unique class, because it includes Dr. Smith, who retired as OSU Extension director in June 2015. It’s fun to see one of our own professionals recognized for his achievements in Extension on behalf of the industry at large.

This event was a great tribute to Dr. Smith and the other inductees. Their individual accomplishments are many; but together, their impact on all areas of the ag industry in Ohio is wide-ranging and truly raises the bar for the rest of us to “keep up the good work.”

Each inductee was recognized for his passion about agriculture, his commitment to making things better for the industry as a whole, and his lifelong devotion to keeping Ohio agriculture at the forefront of innovation, change and the challenge to feed the world.

Perhaps Governor Kasich and ODA Director Daniels said it best in the Hall of Fame program…”These individuals have played an indispensable role in preserving Ohio’s strong agricultural legacy, supporting the state’s economy and contributing to the future advancement of the industry.”

This was also a unique chance for me to meet and greet some of our major supporters and stakeholders. It was truly a “who’s who” in Ohio agriculture, and you could feel the positive energy in the room. The new Cardinal Hall on the fairgrounds makes quite the venue, and the new interactive Ohio Ag Hall of Fame display in the south entrance hall of the building is really something to see – dozens of leaders who have left their mark on Ohio’s agricultural industry.

It’s also been great over the past few months to see the passion and commitment of our own Extension professionals throughout the state. Thank you for your efforts on behalf of our mission.

Barb Brahm’s Schedule

- August 8  Campus
- August 9  Delaware
- August 10  Greene/Mercer
- August 11  Montgomery/Greene
- August 12  Campus

Support Staff - Have You Registered? …

The registration is now open for the National TERSSA (Support Staff) Conference. The cost of registration for this two-day program is $195 ($145 for TERSSA members). Lodging is limited at Westin Great Southern Hotel, so please book your room now.

- Registration
- Agenda
- Lodging
Pick Up the Pace for Effectiveness with Little Changes

1. Shorten your response time.
2. Return all phone calls and emails within 24 hours.
3. Keep phone calls short – unless you are trying to build relationships.
4. Learn to say no once in a while.
5. Apologize quickly.
6. Conduct faster, more effective meetings.
7. Say thank you as soon and often as possible.
8. Realize when 90% is enough.
9. Write shorter memos that are clear and to the point.

“If you think you’re too small to have an impact, try going to bed with a mosquito in the room.” - Anita Roddick

OSUE SNAP-Ed Receives $55K Grant from Walmart State Giving Program . . . (Source: fcs.osu.edu and onCampus Today)

OSU Extension, Family and Consumer Sciences’ SNAP-Ed program has received a $55,000 grant from the Walmart Foundation’s State Giving Program to provide meals and groceries for two, six-week Cooking Matters courses in 20 Ohio counties. Specifically, it will provide 440 SNAP eligible adults and parents with hands-on healthful cooking and nutrition education.

Program Coordinator, Nichole Brandenburg said these funds would be used for purchasing:
- Food for class preparation stations
- Participant take home weekly groceries
- $10 gift cards for grocery store shopping challenge
- Cooking tools and insulated travel bags

The project is a partnership with the national nonprofit Share Our Strength to implement its Cooking Matters curriculum into Ohio SNAP-Ed programming. These courses will empower families with the knowledge and skills to shop for, and cook healthy meals on a limited budget thereby decreasing food insecurity, obesity, and diet-related disease. Read more at http://fcs.osu.edu/news/osue-snap-ed-receives-55000-grant-walmart-state-giving-program
Christy Leeds

I first went to 4-H camp as a nine year old 4-Her and I’ve not missed a summer since. During college I worked at Camp Ohio as a lifeguard and program assistant; the best part of the job was getting to know the 13 4-H Agents who brought 4-Hers to camp, worked with us to create great camp experiences, and would eventually become my colleagues when I joined the ranks of Extension a few days after college graduation.

I hold a couple of distinctions which shape my life in wonderful ways; First; I still work in the same county in which I began. A few temporary detours to work multi-county for a few years, and a stint to fill in an admin role in the State 4-H office were enough to remind me that I my heart and skills are in programming. I really enjoy working directly with good volunteers and teens.

Second; I am married to another Extension Educator, which makes for more juggling of Extension meetings and activities than any household deserves, but I’ve very thankful for my husband Rob. His tireless support of my many activities, and willingness to haul truckloads of anything anywhere, have enabled many a 4-H event to happen.

Third; When I began my work in Union County 4-H we had 3 fairs! Today Union County boasts two great fairs. I look at it as more opportunities for young people to be involved (2 Junior Fair Boards! etc).

Yes, I’ve spent a lot of time on fairgrounds, but that’s ok, it’s where many good leadership skills develop.

The same year our son Isaac was born (that’s how I remember how long we’ve been at it), Rob and I began growing and selling pumpkins from a few pallets in our barn yard. Over the next few years we refurbished old barns, hauled away a lot of junk, and gradually added other activities for pumpkin season guests. Today our farm is open 7 weekends in September and October for fall activities; hayrides, Zip lines, Pedal carts, Pumpkin Jump, and much more. We’ve become a favorite fall destination and tradition for families to spend time outdoors, be active together, and enjoy a little farm life.

We host some weddings at the farm May-August, and the farm’s goat herd has expanded into a year round enterprise, both to have enough goats for the fall season and to provide some 4-H project animals.

Our son Isaac is a junior at Ohio State, majoring in Ag Systems Management. He enjoys being a Buckeye and makes it home part time to help on the farm.

I’ve been fortunate to learn from great people, and work in a career which works directly with so many interesting and enthusiastic youth and adults. I think 4-H is the original, and still one of the best, community and leadership development opportunities available for young people and adults, and I feel blessed to be part of it.
Hold The Dates

November 3  
“Being Prepared” All Educators and staff in the Southwest Region are invited to attend this special in service which will address the issues of dealing with an active shooter in your building and how to recognize and deal with people who may have issues related to mental illness. It will be a day long event to be held at the Central State University Branch in Dayton. The program is being sponsored by the Southwest Region EERA Program Leaders. Please mark your calendar and plan to join us!

April 25, 26, or 27  
Southwest Region Spring Conference - Please hold these dates for our Spring Conference. The planning committee will be meeting soon to finalize the date.

Early March  
Southwest Region Support Staff Conference – Date to be announced later.

Approximately 30 were in attendance from Ohio at this year’s NACAA Conference in Arkansas. The traditional states night out dinner was held at the eclectic Dizzy Gypsy Bistro, where the ANR educators were joined by Roger Rennekamp.