Dear Southwest Region Educators and Staff:

Merry Christmas!
Most of you are on vacation this week enjoying Christmas activities, and that is great! Have a wonderful week and a Blessed and Joyous Christmas!

Warmest Holiday Wishes!
Barb

RiV . . .

A reminder about the RiV Deadline – The following items are due to the Region Office by January 15. Email items to Carol at bottoms.6@osu.edu so that she can keep track of the information as it is submitted and Carol will share the information with Barb for your file. From RiV, please email an Electronic copy of your – (in Word or PDF format) o Annual Report o Complete Dossier ☐Copy of EEET Teaching Summary Table from Debby Lewis/PD&E ☐Copy of Peer Letters of Teaching ☐Please consider granting Proxy rights to Barb at brahm.1@osu.edu in your RiV
Happy December Birthdays…

- December 1 Jenan Rabi-Program Assistant, Hamilton County
- December 2 Sam Custer-Extension Educator, Darke County
- December 2 Drudy Yoakam-Office Associate, Union County
- December 3 Carol Bottoms– Office Associate, Southwest/NW Region Office
- December 7 Erin Polston – SNAP-Ed Program Assistant, Greene County
- December 13 Rachel Stridsberg– Program Assistant, Clark/Montgomery County
- December 16 Amanda Raines– Program Assistant, Hardin County
- December 21 Monica Jones–Office Assistant, Fayette County
- December 22 Ciomara ‘Cici’ Martin-Program Assistant, Montgomery County
- December 24 Pam Bennett - Educator/Director, Clark County
- December 24 Joe Boggs- Extension Educator, Hamilton County

Easy Ways for Teams to Celebrate

Use “service learning” as a way to build your team spirit and at the same time benefit others. Consider: making sandwiches for a homeless shelter, volunteer a day to Habitat for Humanity, read to children in a school, etc.

Tri-State Diversity Conference

Diversity and inclusion are key values of OSU Extension. This conference is a great way to add credit in the diversity area for performance review scores. Consider attending!

The Tri-State Diversity Conference A Healthy Perspective on Diversity – Progress, Partnerships and Possibilities will be held February 17-19, 2016 at the Marriott, Cincinnati Airport in Hebron, KY.

We hope you will be able to join us at the Pre-conference and/or the 2-day conference.

Two attachments are included:

1. Tri-State Diversity Conference promotional brochure with Registration Form (Register early after January 15, 2016 registration increases.)
2. Tri-State Conference -- Diversity Champion Award nomination form (Deadline to nominate an Individual or a Team is January 15, 2016.)

For more information visit the Conference website at http://ces.ca.uky.edu/tristatediversityconference/schedule.html or call Alison Johnson at Alison.johnson@uky.edu or 502-863-0984

Barb Brahm’s Schedule

- December 21 Campus
- December 22 Campus
- December 23 Vacation
- December 24 Merry Christmas!
- December 25 Merry Christmas!
Nanette “Gigi” Neal

After fourteen years of teaching Agriculture Education and FFA in the Brown County school systems; 8 years at Ripley Union Lewis Huntington and the 6 years at Eastern Brown Local, I decided to pursue a new avenue of my life, with a little assistance from budget cuts. In July 2011, OSUE opened two doors, for me to pursue and Clermont ANR was my choice.

My husband Brian and I live on a family farm (grain, pasture, cattle, hay) in Georgetown, with our son Ethan, who keeps us on our toes with marching and pep band, mock trial, academic team, school dramas, Christian Theater for Children, FFA, 4-H, Junior Leaders and now Junior Fairboard. We are a keep busy family in Brown County as 4-H advisors and member, Junior and Senior Fair volunteers, church and with other local civic organizations, but we wouldn’t have it any other way!

Brian owns and operates a truck and tractor pulling sled for Neal Motorsports, LLC traveling most of his summer in Ohio, Kentucky, Tennessee, Alabama, Indiana and Illinois on sanctioned and non-sanctioned circuits as well as, working on the Neal Family Farms. In the off season, he brokers to Jim Mootz Trucking hauling agriculture commodities around the country.

I am no stranger to agriculture, growing up on a family farm in Ripley, we raised cattle, hay and tobacco and I raised sheep and feeder calves for 4-H. I worked my way through college as a Program Assistant for The Ohio State University – Brown County and then the University of Kentucky- Management Operations. Oh yes, I did say UK, I am not a traditional scarlet and gray person, I do bleed BLUE! I graduated from the University of Kentucky with a Bachelor’s degree in Agriculture Education and then my Master’s of Education from Nova Southeastern University.

Gigi specializes in farm business management, emphasizing in women in agriculture programming, utilizing Annie’s Project curriculum. She serves on eXtension WIA Learning Network leadership charter team, state co-leader of Annie’s Project and Ohio WIA Learning Network which celebrated 100 Ohio WIA in 2014 for Extensions Anniversary. She works in Clermont County, various state extension farm business and small farm teams and serves as a fundamental team player for Miami Valley Extension Education Research Areas.
PCard Reallocation Deadline . . .
The PCard reallocation deadline will fall on December 30 when many will be taking vacation between Christmas and New Years. Please be mindful of this and submit your documentation right away in eRequests as the purchases are made.

Extension A and P Educators and Faculty

If you are considering a promotion request in 2016, the first step is to discuss this with your Regional Director and/or Assistant Director. You are encouraged to initiate this discussion in January and provide your supervisor with a copy of your dossier so they can provide informed feedback regarding the potential for your success in this process. If you decide to move forward, note the deadline below for submitting a letter to the department chair.

To request (1) a department review for promotion to Educator III or IV, (2) a non-mandatory faculty promotion review, or (3) an untenured assistant professor faculty appointment without a national search, submit a letter of intent no later than midnight Monday, March 7, 2016 to Ken Martin, martin.1540@osu.edu, and Lisa Dune, dune.2@osu.edu. Address the letter to: Ken Martin, Department Chair, 2120 Fyffe Road, Room 3, Ag Admin Building, Columbus, OH 43210. Also send a copy of the letter to your supervisor. can provide informed feedback regarding the potential for your success in this process. If you decide to move forward, note the deadline below for submitting a letter to the department chair.

To request (1) a department review for promotion to Educator III or IV, (2) a non-mandatory faculty promotion review, or (3) an untenured assistant professor faculty appointment without a national search, submit a letter of intent no later than midnight Monday, March 7, 2016 to Ken Martin, martin.1540@osu.edu, and Lisa Dune, dune.2@osu.edu. Address the letter to: Ken Martin, Department Chair, 2120 Fyffe Road, Room 3, Ag Admin Building, Columbus, OH 43210. Also send a copy of the letter to your supervisor.

After the department has received the letter of intent, the candidate will receive a confirmation email. Reference the A&P Promotion Guide or the Faculty Promotion Guide for further details regarding the review and items due. The 2016-2017 guidelines will be made available in January.

Questions may be directed to your supervisor, the Administrative & Professional Promotion Committee Chair, Nate Arnett, arnett.67@osu.edu, the Faculty Promotion and Tenure Committee Chair, David Civittolo, civittolo.1@osu.edu or me martin.1540@osu.edu.

Thank you,
Ken