Barb’s Notes and Quotes…

Dear Southwest Region Educators and Staff:

It’s a beautiful sunny morning out right now. Signs of spring are starting to pop up! Enjoy!

Spring Conference Reminder – We gave you the date for our Southwest Region Spring Conference way last fall, but it is time to check your calendar to make sure you have it down. This one day conference is for all Educators and program staff (not EFNEP or SNAP program assistants). It will be held on Friday, April 29, 2016, at the Champaign County Extension Office. All program staff are requested to attend.

Barb Phares Reception – Don’t forget to join us this Thursday, Feb. 25, as we celebrate the retirement of Barb Phares, Extension Educator, 4-H Youth Development in Mercer County. Barb has served in Mercer County for over 31 years. The reception is being held from 3-6 pm in the large meeting room in the building where the Extension Office is located at 320 Livingston Street, Celina. A short program will be held at 5:00 pm.

ZIKA Virus – Joe Boggs has requested that if any counties receive questions about mosquitos and the Zika virus, please contact him at boggs.47@osu.edu.

Tri State Diversity Conference – Kudos to all our Southwest Region Educators who were part of the planning and presentations at this outstanding conference. I was able to attend the entire 3 days and had a mind stretching experience. Do plan to attend next year for a great professional development activity. The date is Feb. 15 – 17, 2017. Laura Norris and I will be sharing information from the conference in upcoming newsletters.

Give your best and always be kind!

Have a great week!
Barb
Happy February Birthdays…

- February 1 Katie Schroeder-Program Assistant, Montgomery County
- February 3 Kay Kramer-Office Associate, Union County
- February 11 Ken Ford-Extension Educator, Fayette County
- February 12 Amanda Douridas-Extension Educator, Union County
- February 15 Barb Brahm– Interim Region Director, Southwest Region Office
- February 21 Carolyn Allen–Program Assistant, Clark County
- February 22 Jamie Seger– Extension Educator, Miami County
- February 22 Kathy Michelich-Extension Educator, Warren County

Easy Ways for Teams to Celebrate

Give someone a container with a small token of appreciation inside. Encourage the recipient to “pass it on” (the container) to someone else with an appreciation token inside.

Request an Ed Tech Workshop:
Interested in learning more about an Ed Tech topic, but not sure where to start? Consider requesting one of their workshops for your team or office. The Ed Tech Unit offers workshops in the following content areas:
Video Creation
eNewsletter Creation
Live Streaming
Blogging Best Practices
Social Media Basics
Social Media Strategy
Online Course Design for Formal Learning Environments
To learn more or to request a workshop, visit the Request a Workshop page on the Ed Tech Blog. Please note that depending on your workshop request, minimum participant requirements may apply. Questions or comments? Contact Jamie or Danae.

Note: Danae will be presenting "Blogging Best Practices" at our CD Unit Spring Meeting on March 30 at the 4-H Center.

Barb Brahm’s Schedule
- February 22 Campus
- February 23 Delaware
- February 24 Campus
- February 25 Campus/Mercer
- February 26 Vacation

Fair Events Coordinator
Jefferson County, Oregon
1.0 FTE
Post Date: February 25, 2016
Deadline Date: Until filled
To Apply

"If your actions inspire others to dream more, learn more, do more and become more, you are a leader." ~ John Quincy Adams

"Whatever you are, be a good one." ~ Abraham Lincoln

"We must dare to be great; and we must realize that greatness is the fruit of toil and sacrifice and high courage." ~ Teddy Roosevelt

Southwest Region Forum
Kelly Royalty  
Clermont County  
4-H Educator  

I am the 4-H Youth Development Educator and County Extension Director in Clermont County. My specializations include Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) and 4-H CARTEENS. I also enjoy working with teens to develop leadership skills through our camp counselor program and local leadership program, LOOK to Clermont.

I attended The Ohio State University where I earned my Bachelor’s Degree in Agricultural Education. I taught high school science for one year before pursuing a Master’s Degree in Biology at Miami University. Throughout my time as an undergraduate and graduate student, I worked for Macy’s, Inc. in a variety of roles, most recently, in the Department of Learning and Development.

Traveling has been a passion of mine since I was a child. I couldn’t pass up a Master’s Degree program that provided me with the opportunity to travel to remote parts of the world. The most challenging, yet most rewarding expedition was to the Amazon Rainforest. It sounds silly but I remember reading about the rainforest in my science book in elementary school and dreaming of going to the Amazon Rainforest.

After a day of flying, a day on a bus and two more days on a boat, I had the opportunity to study the sights, sounds and smells of the rainforest, focusing on tropical and avian ecology. I experienced the unnerving sound of a red howler monkey claiming his territory, being chased by peccaries (similar to a wild pig), collecting data for the Tambopata Macaw Project as hundreds of birds flocked to the clay lick at 5 a.m. and having my bag ransacked by a spider monkey.

My husband, Steven, and I spend much of our time traveling and going to concerts. We also enjoy hiking and camping with our dog, Buckeye. Steven works as a project manager for Structural Systems Repair Group. We have been married four years and reside in Independence, Kentucky.
Congratulations to Barb Phares

As Barb Phares works her last week in Mercer County, I have asked her to share some thoughts about her career as a 4-H Educator. Here is her response... . . .

I have worked in Extension for almost 35 years; 31 of those years with The Ohio State University Extension. I have enjoyed a very rewarding career and have worked with literally hundreds of people.

During my tenure as an Extension Educator, 4-H Youth Development in Mercer County, I have been successful in growing our 4-H membership even as our community continued to offer more in-school and out-of-school youth involvement opportunities.

One of the programming efforts that I feel kept the youth engaged in 4-H membership was our large and active camping program. Many youth would voice that the week they spent at camp was the best week of their entire summer. Our local 4-H campgrounds, located in our county seat of Celina, is planned, implemented and evaluated by a group of trained 4-H camp counselors. Unlike many 4-H camps in Ohio, we never have hired an adult or college-aged staff. Many of these teens were a member of the camp staff for 5 summers and as “senior” camp counselors helped to develop the younger or more inexperienced members of the staff. It was my job to teach these teens not only the skills needed to serve as a camp counselor, but also the finer arts of negotiation, compromise, role modelling and public presentation. Our camp grew from less than 100 participants when I first moved here in 1985 to 286 campers in 2015 (which was an overflowing capacity crowd!) Our camping program has enjoyed these strong camping numbers for many years.

Mercer County can also boast of a strong and vibrant core of teen and adult leaders, serving in many different capacities throughout the 4-H program. I know that I could have experienced a sudden emergency and whatever event, workshop, class or activity that needed to be held would not have only been conducted; but would be been accomplished with excellence by these outstanding volunteers. I felt I was successful in developing this diverse audience’s skills and capitalizing on their talents for the benefit of the overall 4-H program.

Over the last 30 years, our teen 4-H members have also had the opportunity to participate in an interstate cultural exchange program. Mercer County 4-H has been represented in this program in nearly every part of the United States. Many of our exchange participants have made long-lasting friendships with their hosts. For many teens living in this rural setting, taking that leap to travel outside their borders was a big step in their personal development.

Mercer County also boasts a very strong educational emphasis in livestock interviews, record keeping and skillathons. Every 4-H member, taking any project – livestock or a special interest project, participates in interview judging. The livestock exhibitors also complete their record book, interview and 3 part skill station each year. This has been the method of project evaluation for at least the past 25 years.

What I feel has been the most significant accomplishment of my career has been the people that I have seen grow from that first year 4-H member into strong, contributing citizens. I appreciate the opportunity to have positively influenced so many people.

Barbara Phares

Assistant Professor
Extension Educator and County Director
4-H Youth Development
NAE4-HA Awards Deadline . . . (Source: Christy Millhouse)
All award entries MUST be completed online utilizing the online NAE4-HA awards system by March 1. Enter the system via the link at https://form.jotform.com/nae4ha/state-selection. Members will select their state and then proceed to their desired award applications. You will be walked step by step through the application process. Complete the necessary requirements and submit. Please reference the score sheet of the award category you are applying in for specific award criteria and submission requirements. For help or questions about anything awards related, please ask and if I do not have the answer. I will find out for you. My email is millhouse.10@osu.edu Service Award Winners – I will submit your information for you. Please send this to me by February 26. I will need the following information:
Award Nominee (exactly as you wish to have it on the award):
Service Award (just to make sure I have it correct):
Title:
Award Nominee Mailing Address:
City:
State:
Zip:
Telephone (Office):
Email:
NAE4-HA Region:
50 word bio that will be printed in the awards program:
A digital photo of the nominee (head and shoulders):

Updated Guidelines for Peer Review . . . (Source: Ken Martin)
The OSUE Guidelines for peer review have been updated and are posted at http://extension.osu.edu/policyand-procedures-handbook/i-administration-policies/review-process-osu-extension-educational

Ag. Outlook
The Ag. Outlook was held in Darke County with the topic of Avian Flu Outbreak. For more information: http://dailyadvocate.com/top-stories/12902/industry-better-prepared-for-avian-flu