Dear Southwest Region Educators and Staff:

It has been so exciting to read your performance reports these past weeks! I am so impressed with the wonderful work you are doing. And that includes the support and involvement of our office associates, program assistants and the entire staff. Last week Carol sent out the visit schedule for Educator Performance Reviews this spring. Be sure to contact us if any conflicts come up. A schedule is posted on the web.

Here are important dates to remember:

- **March 7**  
  **Deadline to apply for Promotion for 2016.** Letter due to Ken Martin, Department Chair
- **March 14**  
  **Top of Ohio EERA Calibration Meeting,** 9 am – Noon, Champaign County Extension Office
- **March 15**  
  **Miami Valley EERA Calibration Meeting,** 9 am – Noon, Montgomery County Extension Office
- **March 23**  
  **Southwest Region Support Staff Training,** Champaign County Extension Office
- **April 13**  
  **State CED Meeting,** on Campus
- **April 26**  
  **Legislative Luncheon,** 11 am – 1 pm, State Capital Atrium
- **April 29**  
  **Southwest Region Spring Conference,** Champaign County Extension Office

Have a great week! Cherish and use every moment!!

Best Wishes,
Barb

"Weakness of attitude becomes weakness of character." ~ Albert Einstein

"The secret to effective relationship building through reciprocity is to give before you ask." ~ Anonymous

Easy Ways for Teams to Celebrate

Create or purchase colorful stickers. Give them to team members to use when celebrating personal and professional events.

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.

Barb Brahm’s Schedule

- February 29 Campus
- March 1 Campus
- March 2 Delaware/Campus
- March 3 Campus
- March 4 Champaign/Campus

Note: Danae will be presenting "Blogging Best Practices" at our CD Unit Spring Meeting on March 30 at the 4-H Center.
The Nye family: From left, in front are
Tony and his wife Dicka,
and in back are children Wesley, Sadie and Celeste.

Tony Nye
Clinton County
ANR Educator

Tony received a B.S. in Animal Sciences and a M.S. in Animal breeding and Genetics from Ohio State University. As a kid, Tony wanted to remain on the Henry County farm when he grew up — an operation with some 150 purebred sows. While he was at Ohio State University studying animal science, however, the great farm crisis of the 1980s hit the rural countryside including his family so the farm was not something he could go back to. It was a turning point for Tony. Instead of returning to a family swine operation, he ended up with a career in Extension. Following college and time as an Extension agent-in-training, in December, 1988 he was named Extension Educator for agriculture and natural resources in Clinton County where he’s been ever since. Tony’s main focus areas involve swine and goat production and for the past eight years Tony has been the Extension State Program Leader for Small Farm programing. Currently Tony oversees three New and Beginning Small Farm Colleges that run eight weeks each and will oversee two upcoming State Small Farm Conferences. Tony’s small farm leadership gave him the opportunity in 2015, to serve on a Federal USDA NIFA Beginning Farmer Committee in Washington D.C.

Besides those key activities and the day-to-day county programming, Tony is county Chair and is currently serving as the NACAA State ANR president.

Tony’s work in Meat Goats has given him the opportunity to present at national events in at least 12 states and internationally in Mexico.

Tony and his family reside on a purebred swine and commercial goat farm in Washington Court House, Ohio. Tony’s wife, Dicka works with her father in their farm accounting, tax and business planning firm. In addition, she home schools their children – Celeste, Sadie and Wesley.

Tony enjoys spending as much time as possible on the farm and attending national swine shows when his schedule allows. His family (not Tony) enjoys renaissance festivals. Each year they travel to Georgia to attend a really large festival near Atlanta. Tony also enjoys attending OSU football games each fall. Tony and his family do not go on a lot of vacations however they had a great time this past fall visiting Universal Orlando in Florida. Family Time is always important!
**OPERS Retirement Planning Seminars . . .**
The Office of Human Resources is hosting retirement education seminars during the month of March for members of the Ohio Public Employees Retirement System (OPERS). Education Today for Retirement Tomorrow is for OPERS members who are eligible to retire after January 7, 2018 (Groups B and C). This seminar provides tips on preparing for retirement and reviews key decisions dates leading up to retirement. Seminars are held: • Thursday, March 3, 2016, 10-11 a.m. - Ross Heart Hospital Auditorium (H1213) • Thursday, March 17, 2016, 10-11 a.m. - Scott Laboratory E100 Ready to Retire Pension and Health Care is for OPERS members who are eligible to retire on or before January 7, 2018 (Group A). During this seminar, OPERS members will learn about important pension and health care changes that will impact their retirement. Participants will learn how to apply for retirement, calculate their monthly OPERS payment and determine if they are eligible for health care. We will also cover upcoming changes to the OPERS Health Care Plan and the impact to their retirement decisions. Seminars are held: • Thursday, March 3, 2016, 1-3 p.m. - Ross Heart Hospital Auditorium (H1213) • Thursday, March 17, 2016, 1-3 p.m. - Scott Laboratory E100 To register or for more information, visit go.osu.edu/BuckeyeLearn

**Ed Tech Information . . .**
Coffee Break Join the Ed Techs this Friday, March 4 at 10 a.m. for their monthly Coffee Break with an Ed Tech. They’ll be discussing tips and tricks for using Carmen Connect. They’ll also have time to answer all your ed tech questions. Join the conversation at https://carmenconnect.osu.edu/edtechcoffeebreak/ 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 • Social Media Basics • eNewsletter creation • Social Media Strategy • Live Streaming • Online Course Design for Formal Learning • Blogging Best Practices Environments To learn more or to request a workshop, visit the Request a Workshop page on the Ed Tech Blog (http://u.osu.edu/extensionedtech/). Please note that depending on your workshop request, minimum participant requirements may apply. Contact Jamie Seger (seger.23@osu.edu) or Danae Wolfe (wolfe.540@osu.edu) for more information. NOTE: Danae Wolfe, Ed Tech, will be making two presentations on eNewsletter Creation and Social Media Content Strategy at the Region Support Staff In-Service on April 28.