Barb’s Notes and Quotes...

Dear Southwest Region Educators and Staff:

Greetings! I have had the enjoyment of listening to eleven of you teach in the past few weeks. What a great bunch of Educators we have in our Region. And the great programs continue! Check out the pictures from the Tri State Green Industry Conference held last week. What an outstanding event!

Southwest Region Support Staff Conference - This event will be held on March 23 for all support staff at the Champaign County Extension Office. Please work together on scheduling so that all our support staff are able to attend. Details to come. Program highlights will include a business update by Cindy Buxton.

This weekend includes the special day each year that we share our thoughts and caring with those we love. It’s on a Sunday, so work should not interfere. Take time and make a special effort to show your loved ones that you really do care. We can show our love through words, touch, notes, gifts and spending time with someone. How does your loved one most appreciate being shown that you care? Do something special to make sure they feel loved this Sunday!

Happy Valentine’s Day!

Cherish each moment spent with those you love!

Barb
Consider these thoughts from Jim Tressel’s book *Life Promises for Success*, about caring for others and sharing your “love” as Valentine’s Day draws near. Nobody Cares What You Know Till They Know That You Care.

Of the people you have worked with or for, how many can you honestly say cared about you as a person and not just as another cog in a machine? My guess is that if you’ve worked with someone who was truly interested in you and cared about you personally, you have not forgotten them and what they did. The wonderful thing about showing genuine care for others, is that the giver gains as much as the receiver, and maybe more. This by-product of love for both cannot be recorded on a chart. Loving others isn’t easy. You have to make time for it in your busy schedule. It has to be intentional, and something you strive to do. And love’s schedule is not always convenient. It’s easy to say you want to show you care, but it’s something else to truly commit yourself to actually doing it.

“When you help someone up a hill, you get that much closer to the top yourself.” Author Unknown

Taken from “Life Promises or Success” by Jim Tressel, page 109.

**Easy Ways for Teams to Celebrate**

Toast the team’s accomplishments by bringing in a toaster and have breakfast breads, bagels, etc. for the team to enjoy as they share a “toast.”
Kathy Green has a M.S. in Family & Child Studies from Miami University in Oxford, Ohio. She is employed as a Family & Consumer Sciences Educator with Ohio State University Extension in Clark County. Kathy specializes in issues associated with the aging population as well as parenting and child development. Her interests include helping parents develop and master skills to provide stable nurturing homes for children to grow, and educating seniors on healthy aging and independent.
Extension Program Committees

Program Committees
Program committees assist Extension staff in identifying the needs and opportunities of present and potential clientele. The identified needs and opportunities serve as a basis to develop educational programs. The program committees also help prioritize programming opportunities and assist staff in establishing program direction. Program committees should be in place if Extension staff is working in one of the four program areas (agriculture and natural resources, family and consumer sciences, 4-H youth development, and community development).

Responsibilities of Extension Professionals
The success of county Extension and program advisory committees requires the active involvement and support of Extension professionals. Specific responsibilities include:
- Understand the structure, function, and policies of OSU Extension.
- Provide new members of advisory committees with an orientation that includes: the purpose of the committee, how the committee functions, the responsibilities of membership, and communication and input processes
- the history and philosophy of Extension
- background on the local programs
- the current long- and short-term Extension and individual program goals
- current programs
- finances
- plan of work and impact reports
- organizational structure
- membership lists
- skills to possess or develop
The Extension professional should also:
- Provide committee with economic, social and cultural data prior to program review discussions.
- Work with the committee chair to develop meeting agendas.
- Distribute the committee agenda in a timely fashion.
- Report the results of educational efforts.
- Provide a written summary/minutes of each meeting to each committee member.
- Involve the committee in meaningful activities
- Use the committee members’ time and skills wisely.
- Make sure all members are involved.
- Avoid power struggles.
- Remove problematic members when necessary.
- Encourage commitment and involvement.
- Recognize contributions in meaningful ways.
The Tri State Green Industry Conference had a record turn-out this year with 558 participating. This included 54 individuals who participated in the Trade Show with 25 for-profit vendor booths and 10 booths representing non-profits. 30 presenters made 30 teaching presentations in 8 concurrent educational sessions. OSU Extension was very well represented in the teaching presentations: 12 presentations were made by OSU Extension Educators or departmental OSU Extension Specialists.

Congratulations to Julie Crook, Joe Boggs, Gigi Neal, Pam Bennett, and other Southwest Region staff on the great success of this conference!