Barb’s Notes and Quotes...

Dear Southwest Region Colleagues:

The lazy, hazy, crazy days of summer are here! Take time to enjoy them!

Our Southwest Region EERA Program Leaders met recently to plan professional development and other activities for the coming year. Several sub-committees will be meeting to plan trainings on mental health first aid, grant planning and management, spring conferences for program and support staff, and more. We will keep you posted as dates and information become available. There are some exciting ideas beginning to grow!

**Dates to Remember:**
July 20 (afternoon)       CED Summer Update by Carmen Connect
July 24-30               OSU Staff Appreciation Week - Show the folks in your office that they are appreciated. Do something special and fun!

During this busy time of fairs, field days, camps, and meetings, take time to . . .

Walk the talk, Keep it simple and keep it real,
Celebrate successes, Know that courage matters,
Keep hope alive, Take responsibility,
Develop a “service attitude”, Aim for the heart, and...
Make a difference whenever and wherever you can.

Thanks for all you do! You are appreciated!

Sincerely,

Barb
Here are some powerful tips to help you and others to *Live Your Life Like It Matters*:

**Choose to be enthusiastic at work today.** If you encounter anyone who is being critical or negative, spread some sunshine their way. Your enthusiasm can positively affect others. Misery might love company, but enthusiasm is contagious! Help others catch it!

**Challenge yourself to “raise the bar”.** Set personal goals to improve your job and the interactions that are a part of your daily routine. Compete against YOU – don’t compare yourself with others or wait for someone else to elevate your performance.

**At the end of each day, or project, or week: replay your performance.** Take an inventory of what you did well, and what you can do better. Learn from your successes and from those things you didn’t handle that well. As you consider all your activities, where do you see potential areas of improvement? Truly effective people wear an invisible sign that reads...

**UNDER CONSTRUCTION: Working to be better today than yesterday – and better tomorrow than today!**

**Easy Ways for Teams to Celebrate**

Have a toy basket in the work area, filled with horns, balloons, bubbles, other noisemakers, etc. to celebrate a team or individual victory. Encourage team members to “toot their own horn.”

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**Director’s Drop-In**

Many of you have heard me speak of the growing role of philanthropy in the overall Extension budget. You will hear more about this at our annual Extension conference in December, but I wanted to bring you up to date on several advances in the area of private fund development that will set us on an aggressive path forward for attracting additional financial support of our work.

First, I am pleased to announce the addition of Jera Oliver to the team of fund-raising professionals who support Extension. The hiring of Jera will allow for expanded fund development for our Agriculture and Natural Resources, Community Development, and Family and Consumer Sciences program areas. I am also pleased to announce a gift of $5 million to build a new Franklin County Extension office near the Ohio State campus. With a deep sense of gratitude, we offer thanks to 4-H alum and Extension supporter Pat Brundage for this generous gift. This gift models the type of transformative change that can be driven by private gifts to Extension in every county of the state.

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**Barb Brahm’s Schedule**

- **July 11**  
  Campus
- **July 12**  
  Greene/Delaware
- **July 13**  
  Camp Ohio/Campus
- **July 14**  
  Administrative Cabinet
- **July 15**  
  Vacation or Campus

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**Happy July Birthdays…**

- **July 9**  
  Rhonda Williams, Educator/Director, Darke County
- **July 10**  
  Kim Martini, Office Associate, Hamilton County
- **July 11**  
  Jamy Friend, Program Assistant, Darke County
- **July 13**  
  Patty Cribley, Program Assistant, Hardin County
- **July 14**  
  Nancy Tilton, Office Associate, Preble County
- **July 18**  
  Peggy Cebelak, Program Assistant, Butler County
- **July 20**  
  Vicki Phillips, Program Assistant, Hardin County
- **July 22**  
  Jeff Stachler, Extension Educator, Auglaize County
- **July 28**  
  Theresa Ford, Office Associate, Montgomery County
My grandparents had a small farm in Sandusky County located right next to a golf course. My summer was spent riding my bike to the farm to do chores, then spending the rest of the day playing golf before returning to the farm for evening chores. I was active in both 4-H and FFA and showed livestock at the national, state and local levels.

After graduating from high school and realizing my dream of being a pro golfer wasn’t in the cards, I enrolled at The Ohio State University to major in Animal Sciences. After graduation, I worked for the Pennsylvania Farm Bureau and then for the Ohio Farm Bureau in Auglaize, Mercer and Shelby Counties. Whether he liked my work or just wanted me out of Shelby County, retired Extension Educator Roger Bender pushed me to apply for an “agent” job with Ohio State University Extension because he thought I would like the work. That was 1994 and now 22 years later, I guess I still like the work.

My Extension specialization is livestock and forage production, but because of the needs of Warren County, I have also developed an interest in horticulture. I started the Master Gardener program in Warren County about 12 years ago.

Interestingly enough, Emerald Ash Borer played an important role in meeting my wife. About ten years ago, the Ohio Department of Agriculture sent a media specialist out to Warren County to calm the masses after EAB was found in the county. That media specialist turned out to be Cindy Burskey, future OSU Extension Educator in Butler County and the future Mrs. Greg Meyer. Cindy and I live in Lebanon, OH with our two young sons (Owen and Dirk). In my spare time, I like to watch the Buckeyes and “start” home improvement projects. In the future, I am hoping my sons will have an interest in golf, so that I will have a good excuse to play more rounds.