Dear Southwest Region Educators and Staff:

Our summer days are moving along quickly – especially with all the rain. The old saying was that corn should be “knee high by the Fourth of July”. Well, where we live, the corn came in tassel by July 5. What a year!

I know all of you are in busy times with nutrition activities, 4-H camps, fair and research plots. I’m hoping to be in most counties sometime over the summer. It will soon be time to schedule fall visits with educators during September and October.

**CED Summer Meeting**
Because of busy schedules, our summer update for County Extension Directors will be by Carmen Connect. It is scheduled from 9-11:30 am on Wednesday, July 22. Details will be out today or tomorrow.

**Organization Inefficiencies**
Our Extension Administrative Cabinet is developing a focus on several key issues over the next 6 months. One of them is to identify and address inefficiencies on the operation and programs of OSU Extension.

Here is how you can help! Please send Carol Bottoms a list of procedures, operations, and practices of OSU Extension that you feel could be made better, or tweaked to take less time, or could make our organization more efficient. Include specific examples. Send to Carol at bottoms.6@osu.edu by July 30. Thanks for your help!

**Southwest Region Dates and Activities**
The EERA program leaders will be meeting soon to coordinate and plan regional trainings and activities. Watch for a questionnaire soon to submit your input.

Till next time...Live with Intention!

Barb
"Success does not consist in never making mistakes, but in never making the same one a second time." ~ George Bernard Shaw

"Keep pushing. You can accomplish anything you set your mind to."
~ Anonymous

"If you can't explain it simply, you don't understand it well enough."
~ Albert Einstein

"Sometimes the issue isn't that your problems are too big, it's that you see yourself as too small." ~ Steve Maraboli

"Positive people have made up their mind to enjoy life. They focus on the possibility, not the problem."
~ Anonymous

"Talk about your blessings more than you talk about your problems."
~ Anonymous

Easy Ways for Teams to Celebrate

The team leader has a number of small items in a basket to recognize individuals “doing the right things” or for doing “above-and-beyond”.

**Happy July Birthdays…**

- July 9 Rhonda Williams-Extension Educator/CED, Darke County
- July 10 Kim Martini– Office Associate, Hamilton County
- July 11 Jamy Friend- Program Assistant SNAP-Ed, Darke County
- July 12 Sarah Riley-Program Assistant, Montgomery County
- July 13 Patty Cribley-Program Assistant, Hardin County
- July 14 Nancy Tilton– Office Associate, Preble County
- July 18 Peggy Cebelak – Program Assistant, Hamilton County
- July 20 Vicki Phillips-Program Assistant, Hardin County
- July 28 Theresa Ford- Office Associate, Montgomery County

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**Southwest Region Forum**

**Barb Brahm’s Schedule**

- July 13 Campus
- July 14 Auglaize/Logan/Union
- July 15 Delaware
- July 16 Clermont/Clinton/Hamilton
- July 17 Vacation
Barbara Brahm is an Associate Professor at The Ohio State University and is currently serving as the Southwest Region Interim Director and Interim Associate Department Chair for Ohio State University Extension covering 20 units in 19 counties. Barbara has been a County Extension Educator over 41 years serving in Seneca (9), Stark (2), Ashland (2), Hancock (26), Union (1) and Delaware (2) Counties in the areas of family and consumer sciences, 4-H Youth Development, and community development. Her BS and MS degrees are both from The Ohio State University in the areas of home economics education and home management.

She has initiated and led numerous collaborations, committees and community initiatives and has been a catalyst for community change. Her focus has centered on building strong relationships and visibility through collaboration to achieve accountability and credibility for Extension. Her teaching has been focused in the areas of financial management, nutrition, parenting, time management and youth asset building.

Barbara has served on state and national committees and has been a recipient of the Excellence in Extension Award. She recently received the Woman of Distinction Award from the Girl Scouts of Western Ohio.

Barb and her husband, Tom, have three Scottish terriers. Their son Matt, and his wife, Chelsea, live in Austin, Texas. Matt works as a systems engineer in computers and Chelsea is a social worker. Their son Mark is involved in realty work in the Columbus area and has completed an internship at Disneyworld, and one year as an au pair in Germany.

Barb enjoys baking, reading, music and homemaking.
Our Connection Page

Support Staff Hold the Date...

TERSSA and the CES Connection – In 2016, Chi Epsilon Sigma (the National Extension Support Staff Fraternity) and Ohio State University Extension have the honor of hosting the TERSSA (The Extension Research and Support Staff Association) National Conference. This will be the first time the conference is held in Ohio. We are excited to show affiliated TERSSA states our Buckeye Pride! Planning has already begun. Mark your calendars – tentative date: October 18-20, 2016 in Columbus. Also, when the Chi Epsilon Sigma membership information comes out in the next few weeks, please consider joining CES and TERSSA. It is a wonderful way to be connected to support staff in Ohio and other states (current TERSSA states include Alabama, Arkansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Ohio, North Carolina, South Carolina and West Virginia).

Ohio Ag & NR Educators did really well in the National Communications contest again this year. The following state, North Central Finalists and National Finalist awards were garnered by Southwest Region members from Ohio. Congratulations to each member for their achievements.

NACAA Communications Contest
2015 Contest Results, Ohio
Class #4-Program Promotional Piece
Beth Scheckelhoff & Gigi Neal- State Winner

Class #5-Personal Column
Pam Bennett- State Winner

Class #10-Fact Sheet
Peggy Kirk Hall-State Winner and North Central Region Finalist

Class #12-Web Site/Online Content
Peggy Kirk Hall- State Winner

Class #13- Learning Module
Chris Bruynis, Bruce Clevenger, Eric Romich, & Larry Gearhardt- State Winner

Class #14-Bound Book
Pam Bennett & Maria Zampini- State Winner and North Central Region Finalist