Barb’s Notes and Quotes

Dear Southwest Region Educators and Staff:

Yesterday, I had the pleasure of participating in the retirement celebration for Kathy Oliver, Hardin County FCS Agent and Educator for 32.5 years. It was a grand celebration with many folks giving testimony of how Kathy had touched and impacted their lives in so many ways. Congratulations, Kathy! Best wishes for a wonderful retirement!

Today is the last day that Keith Smith will be our Director of Extension. He retires after 35 years at The Ohio State University and 23 of those years as Director of Extension. Be sure to complete your entry on line describing what your work entailed at the beginning of last week. The official news release on his retirement is included in this newsletter.

Congratulations to Greg Davis our new Interim Director of Extension, who will begin his position July 1.

Congratulations to Brian Raison, Miami County CED and CD Educator, who will become the part-time Interim Assistant Director, Community Development on July 1.

I wish you well as we continue into 4-H camp time and begin the fair season. Help out your office staff if they need an extra hand!

Have a great long weekend celebrating the 4th of July! Reflect on our freedoms, make family memories, work on summer projects, and take some time for R&R!

Happy July 4th!

Barb
Happy June Birthdays…

- June 1  Lori Now- Program Assistant, Auglaize County
- June 4  Melissa Walters-Office Assistant, Miami County
- June 6  Erin Fawley-Program Assistant, Greene County
- June 8  Lee Ann Hiatt-Office Associate, Greene County
- June 20 Tanya North-Program Assistant, Clark County
- June 30 Barbara Phares-Extension Educator, Mercer County

"It always seems impossible until its done." ~Nelson Mandela

"The only person you are destined to become is the person you decide to be." ~Ralph Waldo Emerson

County Extension Directors Meeting
Just a reminder to all CEDs that our summer meeting will be held on July 22. Details will be coming soon.

Easy Ways for Teams to Celebrate
We all work with teams in Extension, our office, and in the community. It is important that teams feel they are being successful. That helps to motivate and inspire them to keep going and do their best work. I will be sharing easy ways for teams to celebrate the work they do in the coming weeks. Have fun trying some of these out. And please share your successes so we can pass them on. Here is the first one:

Celebrate small successes or “near misses”. Don’t wait until the team has reached their ultimate goal. Celebrate small successes or the efforts of near misses along the way.

From “52 Easy Ways for Teams to Celebrate” by Jo Jones, Marilyn Spiegel, and Jan Thompson

Barb Brahm’s Schedule

- June 29  Campus
- June 30  Campus
- July 1   Campus/Delaware
- July 2   Vacation
- July 3   Holiday
Ohio’s Extension Leader Retires After Long, Productive Ride

COLUMBUS, Ohio — This cowboy isn’t riding into the sunset. Come June 30, Keith Smith’s last official day as director of Ohio State University Extension, you will find him on campus bright and early, riding herd over a series of business meetings and sporting his signature cowboy boots.

Smith retires after 35 years at The Ohio State University, 23 of them as head of Extension. Leading up to his last few weeks in office, he showed no signs of slowing down.

“I promised to stay engaged until June 30, and I am,” Smith said, after working until 9 p.m. the day before. “I’m trying not to leave too many untied ends.”

“He has led the organization through significant growth and has been a steady guide all the way through his final days as director, as the organization continues to adjust to rapid, societal changes,” said Bruce McPheron, Ohio State’s vice president for agricultural administration and dean of the College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences. Extension is the college’s outreach arm.

“Ohioans, and indeed individuals across the country, will benefit from Keith’s leadership for years to come,” McPheron said.

Smith said his successor will inherit one of the top Extension organizations in the country. “The faculty and staff are eager to be creative and innovative. They are in constant search for better ideas,” he said.

The organization’s support for educators to attend national meetings and collaborate with their peers has helped build a strong organization, Smith said. OSU Extension employees have held leadership positions in all four national Extension program area professional organizations in the last five years and are frequent presenters at national meetings. In addition, OSU Extension educators can earn faculty positions at the county level.

Smith, who also serves as the university’s associate vice president for agricultural administration and the associate dean of the college, will continue in his role part-time as Gist Chair in Extension Education and Leadership after taking a couple of months off. He will also teach and advise students in the college’s Department of Agricultural Communication, Education, and Leadership.

To honor his service, the university has established the Keith L. Smith Lecture on Innovation in Extension, fund 315170. Those who wish to contribute can do so at give.osu.edu.

Smith and his wife, Kathleen, live in Hilliard, Ohio, and have eight children and 14 grandchildren.

A search for Smith’s replacement is underway. Until a successor is named, Greg Davis, OSU Extension’s assistant director of Community Development, will serve as interim director beginning July 1.

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Enrollment Opens for Autumn Term Dependent Tuition Assistance
The Ohio State University offers eligible employees and their dependents the opportunity to advance their education at Ohio State. For dependent tuition assistance, applications must be submitted each term. Autumn 2015 term enrollment window opens Monday, June 29, and closes Friday, August 28. Faculty and staff can apply online using Employee Self Service or paper applications.

What you need to do:
• Direct interested faculty and staff to http://go.osu.edu/tuitionbenefit for more information.
• Direct questions to the Office of Human Resources Customer Service Center at service@hr.osu.edu or 614-292-1050.

What happens to your SurveyMonkey account when it expires?
The PDE unit has some experience in this area. If you had one of SurveyMonkey’s professional (paid) plans, your account will revert to the BASIC (free) plan when your subscription expires. Best practice is to export your data for important surveys BEFORE the expiration date of your paid subscription. Be warned that people can still respond to any surveys that are active (even with the BASIC plan)! You will want to close your active collectors, because you will not be able to export data from these surveys after your paid subscription expires. You will only be able to VIEW the first 100 responses to your surveys when your account reverts to the basic plan. You WILL be able to continue to view your surveys after your account reverts to the basic plan, whether or not the surveys are “closed.”

Congratulations to Kathy Oliver on your retirement!