Dear Southwest Region Educators and Staff:

What fun to see many of you at our Spring Conference last Friday! It was a great day of sharing, learning and fun! Many thanks to Champaign County for hosting us in their great facility. A big thanks to the Spring Conference Planning Committee which included Betty Wingerter, Steve Brady, Pat Holmes, Tracie Montague, Barb Hennard, Rebecca Supinger and Melinda Morrison. Door prize winners were: Tony Nye, Godwin Apaliyah, Patty Corfman, and Gigi Neal.

It was great to have Dr. Rennekamp with us to share an Extension update. At around 2:15 pm, Dr. Clarence Bunch arrived to share his greetings. Hey! That’s a historical moment – the first time both Extension Directors in Ohio participated in the same Extension meeting!

Well, here is the latest count on the performance review project: 36 reviews in 14.5 counties finished. 15 reviews in 4.5 counties left. Hardin and Hamilton Counties this week, and Clinton, Fayette, and Warren Counties next week. After performance reviews are completed on May 10, my schedule will become a little more flexible. Please send me dates when I can come to visit one of your programs, especially if there is an opportunity to do a peer teaching review for you. It would be even better if I can get more than one Educator in on the same day.

Happy Mother’s Day!
A special greeting to all of our mothers in the Southwest Region. We wish you a lovely day next Sunday. We appreciate you and all you do for your children. May you be showered with precious memories and special blessings!

Best Wishes to All,
Barbara
Happy May Birthdays…

• May 1 Stephanie Sommers, Program Assistant, Montgomery County
• May 8 Jo Brown, Office Associate, Clark County
• May 12 Tracy Bedford, Program Assistant, Hamilton County
• May 13 Patty House, Extension Educator, Clark County
• May 31 Demetria Woods, Extension Educator, Miami County

“I alone cannot change the world, but I can cast a stone across the waters to create many ripples.” (Mother Teresa)
Consider this a great day to toss a few stones. Ripples have a way of turning into waves.

Easy Ways for Teams to Celebrate
When a member leaves a team, plan a fun departure (toast or roast). Give the member fun items for “team withdrawal symptoms.” Recap the member’s contributions. Plan a team parade through the building. Or give a tree to the team member as a symbol of how their contributions will live on.

NACAA 2016 Poster Competition State Winners

For the extension education category; Amanda Douridas, Mary Griffith, and John Schoenhals will be representing Ohio for the national poster competition.

NACAA 2016 Poster Competition State Winners:

Extension Education
1st Amanda Douridas, Mary Griffith, and John Schoenhals:
USING FIELD DAYS TO MEET PESTICIDE AND FERTILIZER CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

Barb Brahm’s Schedule

• May 2 Hardin/Hancock
• May 3 Hamilton
• May 4 Campus/Delaware
• May 5 Admin. Cabinet Retreat
• May 6 Admin. Cabinet Retreat

Southwest Region Forum
Hi, I’m Debbie Brown. I’m old and I’ve been around!! For the most part, my career has focused on education and leadership, primarily within the agricultural community. I spent the first 20 years post-college in northern Ohio between Toledo and Cleveland. I was the first female “production ag” teacher in Ohio when I started teaching in 1976. Later, I spent 15 years as an Organization Director for Ohio Farm Bureau Federation. Going back to school for my Master's Degree after 20 years out of college was one of the best things I’ve ever done!

The next 20 years have been a combination of furthering my education, teaching in various capacities, and experiencing a drastic change in my personal life: I married a man I’d known for 20 years, returned to the farm, and “had my grandkids first.” (James was 16 when Stanley and I married . . .) I did have the opportunity to return to school one more time to complete my Ph.D. in Agricultural Education, with an emphasis on Teaching and Learning, Research and Statistics, and Psychology.

Since April 2012, I have served as the ANR Educator for Shelby County. Immediately prior to that, I had served as a Family Nutrition Program Assistant in Auglaize County for three years. That was a different audience (low income), but a great personal experience and I met some wonderful people.

My areas of specialization include Agronomy and Farm Management. In addition, I also work with livestock producers and provide education to consumers looking for answers on a variety of subjects such as insects, pond management, and weed identification and control.

We have a very strong Master Gardener program in the county and I work closely with the volunteer leadership. We have held new MG classes three of the past four years, with 11-16 interns each year. In addition to Shelby, we draw students from Logan, Mercer, Auglaize, and Darke counties. I teach the Soils and Fertility and IPM classes.

I enjoy critters, especially cattle and horses. I love to see livestock on good, green pastures: It’s so soothing and relaxing! (Unfortunately, there isn’t much grazing in this area of the state: Land is very expensive and used for growing/harvesting feed for the animals.) I still have a bit-of-the-dream to hold a “Forages for Horses” program (which I had worked with Gary Wilson to establish in the early 2000s). I have done a couple small programs on grazing, even one with a horse-focused audience (!), in the past year and maintain my own rotationally-grazed pasture at home.

I’m analytical and a thinker. I’m also a “learner.” I like statistics and data analysis and enjoy finding “the story in the numbers”! I also tend to be an introvert, although that changed dramatically about 40 years ago. My first OFBF Regional Supervisor pointed out to me that I needed to learn to *talk* to people, to ask questions and take an interest in their lives. OH!! Really?? Okay!
Promotion and Tenure Boot Camp 2016: Only a few more weeks to sign up!...
The P&T Boot Camp will be offered state-wide again in 2016. The boot camp has six – 5 hour sessions (9am-3pm). Every session includes training and technical support for participants as they complete a personal work session. The goal is to prepare professionals to be successful in understanding the P&T guidelines and developing their submission for promotion. The cost will be $120 per participant to cover the cost of materials and food. The boot camps will be held at the Ohio 4-H Center. If you are interested in participating, please send an email to Vicki Myers at: myers.26@osu.edu. Only a few more weeks to sign up!

Promotion & Tenure Boot Camp 2016
July 1st
August 5th
September 2nd
October 7th
November 4th
December 2nd

*Dates subject to change with advanced notice