Dear Southwest Region Educators and Staff:

Greetings from Montana! We have had a wonderful week learning, sharing, celebrating and enjoying the awesome beauty of the mountains! What a joy, blessing, and adventure it has been! I have tried to capture some of this experience for you with my flip camera. We’ll see how it works.

Farm Science Review week has arrived. I look forward to seeing many of you there. There are lots of messages to catch up on. Please give me a call on my cell if there is anything time sensitive I may have missed. The wonderful autumn season will be an exciting time for all. Take time to enjoy it.

Live with intention!!

Sincerely,
Barb

Barb Hennard received the DSA at the NEAFCS annual meeting last week. Jenny Even also received the DSA and Pat Holmes received the Continuous Service Award.
Director’s Drop-In

It’s Farm Science Review week! The Review is one of the nation’s premier agricultural trade and education events, and our OSU Extension professionals play many significant roles in making this such a successful show.

I announced last week that Nick Zachrich has accepted the position of manager of the Farm Science Review, effective September 12. Nick has served as the Review site manager since 2010. As Review manager, Nick will oversee the Review and other events that take place at the Molly Caren Agricultural Center near London, Ohio. He joins Matt Sullivan, who is now superintendent of the Molly Caren facility.

Our goal is to continually improve the visitor experience while showcasing cutting-edge innovations and best practices of modern agriculture. The numbers are impressive – 110,000+ visitors, 600+ exhibitors, thousands of product lines on display, 100+ educational presentations – in the 80-acre exhibit area, 67-acre Gwynne Conservation Area, and 600 acres of field demonstrations. But most impressive are the connections made between attendees, the conversations that help everyone improve their basic knowledge or hands-on practices, and the demonstrations that get visitors excited about new techniques and/or products.

Thank you to everyone who puts a lot of time, talent and Extension expertise to work for the Review each year. I’ll be at Farm Science Review each day, and I hope to see many of you there. Here’s hoping for cooperative weather during the week too!

Barb Brahm’s Schedule

- September 19 Vacation
- September 20 Farm Science Review
- September 21 FSR/Campus
- September 22 Campus
- September 23 Campus/County Visit

Happy September Birthdays…

- September 2 Aaron Fowler, Program Coordinator, Greene County
- September 10 Christy Millhouse, Educator/Director, Preble County
- September 17 Diane May, Program Assistant, Union County
- September 21 Kim Hoppes, Office Associate, Fayette County
- September 25 Carol Wagner, Office Associate, Hardin County
- September 26 Genesis Hawker, Program Coordinator, Butler County
- September 29 Julie Crook, Program Coordinator, Hamilton County
- September 30 Marcia Hatcher, Program Assistant, Champaign County

"I began learning long ago that those who are happiest are those who do the most for others." ~ Booker T. Washington

"If you want something you have never had, you must be willing to do something you’ve never done." ~ Thomas Jefferson

"If my mind can conceive it, and my heart can believe it, then I can achieve it."
~ Muhammed Ali

"Anyone who has never made a mistake has never tried anything new."
~ Albert Einstein
Pamela Bennett

Born and raised in the city in Clark County, I was not involved in 4H and knew nothing about Extension. Little did I know about gardening other than I didn't enjoy weeding the vegetable garden, shelling peas and deadheading my grandma's petunias. I headed to Miami University to be a physical education major. My mom taught for 43 years and I like the idea of teaching. After my first year, my mom made me get a job, imagine that; actually she got a job for me at the local garden center. I was hooked.

Miami didn't have a horticulture program so I transferred to OSU for my last two years and had the best time. I truly loved the college years! After graduating I came home and got a job back at the same garden center and ended up working there for 11 years, moving up the ladder from annual greenhouse manager to general manager. During that time I got to know Extension through a great relationship with Mike Haubner, County Ag Agent. He would always send people to me for horticulture questions. The office was right behind the garden center so Mike and I talked frequently. When Jack Kame retired from the office, Mike asked if I was interested in the job and I jumped at the chance. You see, I came this close to going to Cornell for grad school to get into Extension after that.

I started in 1992 as PA in Clark County then went to Clark/Greene Counties as PA and eventually in 1994 came back to Clark when we created a Horticulture Agent position. I am very proud to have the honor of starting the MGV program in both counties. At that time, I had to get my Master's in five years and finished in 2001. I thought that I would be a great role model for my three children, Allison, Stephanie and Ricky. They would see me study and it would inspire them. That was going great until my oldest heard me say, "if I get a C on this paper, I'll be happy." I immediately heard, "then why do we have to get A's?" Ugh.

In 2006 I was asked to serve as .5FTE State MGV Coordinator and have loved every minute of it (almost, not the administrative stuff!). I am also Horticulture Educator in Clark County as well as County Director. Extension is such a blessing in my life. It has allowed me to grow in ways I never imagined. I have been able to travel and meet colleagues around the world. I have been given the opportunity to work with my colleagues around the country as I have been involved in the national MGV program. And of course, most importantly I have been able to travel throughout Ohio to see all of the incredible programs that our County Coordinators and MGVS are working on. I love my job.

But even more than my job, I love my family and that love grew like the Grinch's heart last year when my first grandchild, Emerson, was born. Everyone told me I would love being a grandparent and I knew I would, but wow, you don't realize how much love a grandchild brings. I want more! Maybe in the near future as my oldest daughter got engaged recently and my other daughter had a steady guy. I also have been married for 33 years to my wonderful (retired) husband Rick. I am now part of the bitter wives club! Actually, he has taken a great interest in the garden now that he has time and has done so much to help! This might just work out after all because I have at least 10 more years!