Dear Southwest Region Educators and Staff:

Happy Autumn! My favorite time of year.

The countryside was starting to come alive with fall color as I traveled to Greene, Hardin, and Clermont Counties and the Farm Science Review last week. I’m looking forward to visits in Union and Logan Counties this week.

We have a new Extension Director – Roger Rennekamp. Welcome to Ohio!

Many, many thanks to all our ANR and 4-H Educators for your time and efforts in helping to make the Farm Science Review a real showcase. Your programs and displays were highly educational and looked very professional.

Quick Reminders
September 30    Deadline for submitting YP4H survey to receive incentives for 2016

October 1       Southwest Region CED Fall Meeting, 9 am – 3 pm at the Miami County Extension Office. Includes HRA training and Business Office Tips

April 29        Spring Conference, Champaign County Extension Office

Coming Soon!!   “Planning Your Ph.D.
                RIV Training and Workshops

Have a great week! Live with intention!
Best Always,
Barb
What is your dream?  
How will you achieve it?  
Will you achieve your dreams in your lifetime?

Our happiness in many ways ties directly to our inner voice that forever asks the question, “Are you moving toward your dream?” If your answer is “yes,” then hope breeds contentment. However, if the answer is “no, it’s too late,” despair may fester within your subconscious. You might not even realize why your life lacks joy.

Preparing Your Dream by John C. Maxwell

If you are unsure of what your dream might be – either because you are afraid to dream or because you somehow lost your dream along the way – then start preparing yourself to receive your dream by doing five things to put yourself in the best possible position to receive a dream.

Once you do these five things, focus on discovering your dream. As you do, keep this in mind: ‘A dream is what you desire if anything and everything is possible.’

**Mental Preparation:** Read and study in areas of your greatest interest.

**Experiential Preparation:** Engage in activities in areas related to your interests.

**Visual Preparation:** Put up pictures of people and things that inspire you.

**Hero Preparation:** Read about and try to meet people you admire and who inspire you.

**Physical Preparation:** Get your body in optimal shape to pursue your dream.

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**Easy Ways for Teams to Celebrate**

Give a new employee a pasta basket (include all the ingredients for a great pasta dinner) to take home and share with their family. This family celebration symbolizes the integration of work and family.

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**Barb Brahm’s Schedule**

- September 28: Campus
- September 29: Union/Logan
- September 30: Vacation
- October 1: Miami
- October 2: Vacation

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**Welcome to the Southwest Region!**

Kim Hupman-Program Assistant, Hort.  
Erin Polston-Program Assistant, SNAP-Ed
Roger Rennekamp Tapped to Lead OSU Extension . . . (Source: News Release from Suzanne Steel)

Roger Rennekamp Tapped to Lead OSU Extension . . . (Source: News Release from Suzanne Steel) Columbus, Ohio – Roger Rennekamp, the associate dean for Outreach and Engagement at Oregon State University, has been named the next director of Ohio State University Extension.

Bruce A. McPheron, Ohio State’s vice president for agricultural administration and dean of the College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences, made the announcement at the Farm Science Review, a three-day educational and trade show offered by the college that attracts about 130,000 people annually.

Rennekamp will begin his duties on January 4, 2016, replacing Keith Smith who retired June 30 after 23 years in the position. Rennekamp will be the 12th leader of OSU Extension, overseeing nearly 700 employees and a $71 million budget. Extension is the outreach arm of the college.

“Roger brings a great deal of experience at all levels of the cooperative Extension System, and is known for building collaborative relationships and partnerships. His strong background in working across disciplines will serve Ohio State and Ohio quite well. Roger’s enthusiasm and energy will help create the Extension organization of the future,” McPheron said.

“I am honored to renew my relationship with one of the nation’s premier land grant universities,” said Rennekamp about his return to Ohio State. “The need for Extension is as great as any time in its hundred-year history. Extension of the next century must remain true to key principles of community engagement and responsiveness while embracing approaches and technologies that will increase its reach and impact.”

Before taking on his current role in Oregon State’s College of Public Health and Human Sciences, Rennekamp led Oregon’s 4-H Youth Development program. He served as an Extension specialist in program and staff development and as a program specialist for 4-H at the University of Kentucky. He earned his B.S. from the University of Kentucky, his M.S. from Morehead State University, and his Ph.D. from Ohio State.

He and his wife Denise have two grown children. (Reporters who want to schedule an interview with Roger Rennekamp may contact Suzanne Steel at steel.7@osu.edu)
Ed Tech News . . .
First Friday Coffee Breaks The Ed Tech unit is excited to announce a new “drop-in” informal learning opportunity for OSU Extension professionals. Beginning this Friday, October 2, Jamie and/or Danae will be hosting a virtual AMA (Ask Me Anything) session via Carmen Connect. These First Friday Coffee Breaks with an Ed Tech will be held the first Friday of each month from 10-11 a.m. Colleagues are encouraged to join the Connect sessions as needed throughout the hour to ask questions, get recommendations, offer suggestions, ask for resources...anything! This will be a regular opportunity to informally connect and get real-time feedback. Use This Link to Participate in each First Friday Coffee Break

10 Ways to Repurpose Content Why recreate when you can repurpose? Repurposing content allows you to take your best content and make it available to multiple audiences in a variety of formats. Read more on the Ed Tech Blog at http://u.osu.edu/extensionedtech/2015/09/22/10-ways-to-repurpose-content/ \n
Last Chance to Register by October 2 for the remaining Video Creation Workshops. One is being held on October 15 at the OSU South Centers. A minimum of 10 participants are required for each location. Click here for more information and to register!

Customer Service
How are we doing with customer service? How is your office and staff perceived by anyone who comes into or calls the office? These are questions that as publicly funded offices we should occasionally ask ourselves. Recently a state specialist shared some responses they received when they called for an educator (and more professional responses that could have been given).
She is not in yet today (she had a late 4-H meeting last night and will not be in her office until this afternoon)
He will be back Monday (he is attending an all-day meeting in Columbus today and will be back in this office on Monday)
She is out again today (she is at the fairgrounds conducting pre-fair judging events)
It would be best if you just e-mail him (I will gladly take a message and see that he gets it)
I haven’t seen her come in yet (she is away from her desk, can I have her call you when she returns)
He is not available (he is on a conference call now, can I have him return your call when he is finished) Customer service is everyone’s responsibility in an office. As a county educator, it is not uncommon to answer the phones. Also as county educators it is your responsibility to keep office staff informed of your schedules so they can appropriately respond to calls. (One reason we have moved to using shared calendars in Outlook.)