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Happy Birthday . . .

- March 8 – Pam Montgomery, Extension Educator, 4-H and CED, Morgan County
- March 8 – Carol Chandler, Program Specialist, SNAP-Ed
- March 11 – Jill Gerken, Office Associate, Washington County
- March 12 – Jeff McCutcheon, Interim Region Director, Southeast Region and Extension Educator, ANR, Morrow County

Congratulations . . .

Four of our A&P Educators just received notification that they will be receiving promotion in rank effective September 1, 2016. Congratulations!

Promotion to Educator III:

- Kathy Bruynis (Highland County)

Promotion to Educator IV:

- Erin Dailey (Jackson County)
- Jo Williams (Scioto County)
- Tracy Winters (Gallia County)

County Highlights Available . . . (Source: Cheryl Buck)

The 2015 edition of the County Highlights is now available at http://communications.cfaes.ohio-state.edu/resources/marketing-and-brand-strategy/county-highlights, featuring individual reports for each county as well as Adventure Central and the Alber Enterprise Center.
These reports summarize the impact of our Extension professionals, and our numerous partnerships with community leaders, by highlighting success stories in each of our impact areas:

- Strengthening Families and Communities
- Preparing Youth for Success
- Enhancing Agriculture and Environment
- Advancing Employment and Income Opportunities

Our federal, state and local elected officials want to know what we are doing throughout the state for their constituents. The *County Highlights* are one of the most effective publications we use to share local impact information.

You can print and distribute the *County Highlights* as necessary to help tell our story and highlight work that directly addresses critical issues and improves the lives of Ohio citizens.

(Please update any links from your County website to the most up-to-date version of the *County Highlights*.)

**Buckeye Summit . . . (Source: [http://u.osu.edu/cfaesadmin](http://u.osu.edu/cfaesadmin))**

As you may have heard, Ohio State will be convening the Buckeye Summit on April 14 as a venue to engage alumni, community partners, faculty, staff and students in a conversation on Food Security. As President Drake said about the Buckeye Summit in his State of the University Address, “Our goal is to engage hundreds of alumni, volunteers, expert faculty, business and community leaders, along with students, staff and friends in a day-long interactive program to examine best practices and strategies for addressing hunger and deploying Buckeye Nation to be part of the solution.” Casey Hoy, Director of the Discovery Themes' Initiative for Food and AgriCultural Transformation (InFACT), and Chris Delisio, CFAES Development Office and Ryan Schmiesing, Sr. Administrative Officer for the college have been intimately involved in many facets of the planning for the inaugural summit; planning for the event is being led by Advancement and particularly the Alumni Association, as alumni are the key participants.

Several hundred participants, representing the Buckeye Nation as a whole, are expected to be involved in the daylong event. While there is not enough room for all who are interested to attend, the conversation and taking action does not end on April 14th. Plans are being developed to provide tools, resources, research, and engagement opportunities through university web portals. It is also anticipated that there will be a number of events and activities scheduled, around Ohio and across the country that engage Buckeye Nation, including our faculty, staff and students in service activities.

It is important that we recognize that helping individuals and communities achieve food security will not happen as a result of a single event, activity or research project. Collectively, we need to be in this together and I hope you will join together in your community, however you see appropriate in the coming months, to contribute your talents to solving this critically important issue. If you would be able to involve individuals and communities in a particular OSU project, we’d encourage you to submit a proposal for a poster, which may be printed for the Summit if selected, or be displayed online to engage Buckeyes in the followup. You can submit a proposal for a poster using the short form at [http://go.osu.edu/buckeyesummitposter](http://go.osu.edu/buckeyesummitposter).
Those interested in volunteering to serve as a facilitator of a table of 8-12 people at the Summit on April 14th should connect with Kim Gray (gray.722@osu.edu), although please keep in mind that opportunities to serve in this capacity are limited.

We look forward to sharing the outcomes of the inaugural Buckeye Summit, to continuing to engage you in this important conversation, and to sharing opportunities for engagement of Buckeyes everywhere with our work in CFAES.

**Call for Nominations . . . (Source: Terry Niblack)**

The search for the new Associate Dean for Research and Graduate Education is now in the advertising and candidate recruitment phase. The committee is committed to identifying exciting and promising candidates. We want your nominations! Think boldly and broadly about people you know who are committed to research and graduate education and whom you believe have the skills and qualities to lead in this essential role. Nominations may be sent to niblack.2@osu.edu or mbaker@baasearch.com or to any member of the search committee (http://cfaes.osu.edu/about/from-the-vp/leadership-searches). There are no requirements for nominations beyond names, positions, and contact information; your personal statement of support will be appreciated even though it isn’t necessary. Please help us build a strong candidate pool for this important leadership position in our College.

**Call for Panelists . . .**
eXtension is partnering with New Media Consortium and the ECOP Task Force on Innovation (led by Dr. Keith Smith) to create an Extension Horizon report. The report will look at emerging technologies and methods between 2016-2021. A 45 person panel will be used to determine the trends. eXtension is requesting your help in identifying forward-thinking people to populate the panel. Please take a minute to nominate up to five people at https://vte.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_0B4hdETtFXxy7c1. You can nominate non-Extension people who have a working knowledge of Cooperative Extension. Self-nominations are welcome. The survey will close on March 10. For more information about the process, please visit https://extension.org/2016/02/25/a-new-tool-for-looking-beyond-the-horizon-in-cooperative-extension/. If you have any questions, please contact Jerry Thomas at jthomas@extension.org or 419.306.9400.

**Signature Program Submissions . . . (Source: Ken Martin)**

A reminder that if you are considering submitting a signature program (SP) proposal, the first step is to discuss with your Assistant Director (AD) or Associate Director, Programs. You are encouraged to initiate this discussion in March and submit a Logic Model Worksheet by April 1. Download and complete the “Signature Program Logic Model Worksheet” outlining/identifying program goals and objectives, inputs, outputs, and outcomes to use as the basis for your discussions (http://go.osu.edu/SPlmw).

Following the discussions with the AD(s) and/or Associate Director, Programs, the completed proposal should be submitted online at the Signature Program online RFP site (http://go.osu.edu/SPrfp) by May 1.

The submitted proposals will be forwarded to Administrative Cabinet and to the Signature Program proposal review committee for review. A copy of the SP Guidelines are located at http://go.osu.edu/SPguidelines.
NACAA AM/PIC Deadlines...
The deadline for Professional Improvement Session proposals are due March 15. Instructions for applying can be found on page 4 in the December issue of The County Agent Magazine (http://www.nacaa.com/countyagent/2015-04.pdf).

March 15 is also the deadline for NACAA Communications Awards. Find more information about how to apply for these awards at http://www.nacaa.com/awards/QuickStartGuide-HowtoApplyforaNACAAward.php

Search for Excellence Award nominations are also due March 15. Guidelines for this award can be found at http://www.nacaa.com/awards/sfe.php. Last year Gary Gao was a national finalist. Awards vary depending on the category and sponsorship. All entries must be completed online and must include 1) abstract; 2) entry organized according to the following criteria (educational objectives, program activities, teaching methods, results, impact statement and evaluation); 3) no more than three supporting documents; 4) entry cannot exceed 1200 words (excluding the abstract and three supporting documents).

Women in Agriculture Conference Deadline...
The registration deadline for the Women in Agriculture Conference is March 18. This professional and personal conference is for women and young women (high school age) who are interested, involved, or want to become involved in food, agriculture, natural resources, or small business. This year’s conference will be held from 9:00-3:00 on April 1 at the R.G. Drage Career Center, 2800 Richville Drive SE, Massillon. The cost is $55 or $30 for students and includes lunch and continental breakfast. Information is available atregonline.com/womeninageast or by calling 740.622.2265.

State Food Policy Summit...
Hold the date of May 3 on your calendars for the 2016 State Food Policy Summit. This year will feature nationally recognized experts and address a range of state food policy topics such as state legislative trends from across the country, the upcoming farm bill, and federal initiatives around nutrition and health. Please join us to learn what is happening across the nation and envision future policy priorities for strengthening Ohio’s food system.

This Summit (held by the John Glenn College of Public Affairs) is the single annual event for food policy interests to join together across the state. The Summit is intended to inspire action by fostering awareness of food policy activities and possibilities at the state level.

This Summit will be held at the Nationwide and Ohio Farm Bureau 4-H Center on May 3 from 1-5 p.m. If you are a member of a local food policy council, you are also invited to attend the Pre-Summit session from 9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m., which will provide opportunities for training and coalition-building for local food policy councils.

Registration and detailed agenda will be available at the end of March. For more information contact Jill Clark, John Glenn College of Public Affairs at clark.1099@osu.edu
Ed Tech Survey Results...
Thanks to everyone who took time to complete the 2016 Extension Tech Use and Skills Survey. The input is valuable in helping us determine what Ed Tech topics to focus on in the coming year. We gained a lot of valuable insight into our organizational tech use and skill set. Visit the Ed Tech blog to take a look at some of the most notable survey data in the infographic. https://u.osu.edu/extensionedtech/2016/03/08/ed-tech-survey-results-infographic/. No matter your current skill level, the Ed Tech unit is available to help. We are deeply interested in meeting people at their current skill level and navigating them to their end goals. Don’t hesitate to reach out. Take a look at the workshop offerings to get some ideas of how we can help you. If you don’t see exactly what you’re looking for, we can probably create a one-of-a-kind program to meet your needs or the needs of your office or team. Contact Jamie or Danae.

Blog Links...
- CFAES Weekly News Digest - http://u.osu.edu/cfaesadmin
- Extension Director, Roger Rennekamp – http://u.osu.edu/conspectus/
- OSU Extension Ed Tech – http://u.osu.edu/extensionedtech/

Don’t forget this weekend to Spring Ahead

Ohio 4-H Week
March 6-12

OUTSTANDING U!
Important Dates and Deadlines . . .
If there are dates that apply to many that you would like to see included in this section of the newsletter, please send them to Lee Ann at johnson.82@osu.edu.

MARCH:
6-12 – Ohio 4-H Week
12 – Ohio 4-H Conference, Columbus Convention Center
18 – BH EERA ANR Meeting, EARS
19-20 – Counselor College, Canter’s Cave
21 – JCEP Meeting, Ag. Admin. Aud.
30 – Comm Dev Spring Meeting

APRIL:
6 – Biometric Health Screenings, SE Region Office
10-13 – PILD, Crystal City, VA
13 – State CED Meeting, F2F, Columbus
19-20 – Healthy People In-service Days
26 – Legislative Luncheon
29 – Ohio Valley EERA All Program Meeting, South Centers

MAY:
11 – BH EERA 4-H Meeting, SERO
16 – JCEP Meeting, Carmen Connect
27 – BH EERA ANR Meeting, EARS

JUNE:
15-17 – ANR Summer Retreat, Hueston Woods Lodge and Conference Center, College Corner, OH
20 – JCEP Meeting, Ag. Admin. Aud.
26-29 – NACDEP & ANREP Conference, Burlington, VT

JULY:
20 – Region CED Meeting, Carmen Connect
24-28 – NACAA, Little Rock, AR
27-August 7 – Ohio State Fair

SEPTEMBER:
12-15 – NEAFCS, Big Sky, Montana
19 – JCEP Meeting, Carmen Connect
19 – EERA 4-H Program Leaders & 4-H Specialists Meeting, Columbus
20-22 – Farm Science Review
23 – BH EERA ANR Meeting, EARS
28 – Region CED Meeting, F2F, location TBD

OCTOBER:
2-8 – National 4-H Week
3 – BH EERA 4-H Meeting, SERO
4-5 – Comm Dev Retreat
9-13 – NAE4-HA Conference, New Orleans
17 – JCEP Meeting, Ag. Admin. Aud.
18-19 – National TERSSA Conference (Support Staff), Columbus
23-27 – ESP National Conference, Cape May, NJ

NOVEMBER:
1 – 4-H Professional’s Update, 4-H Center, Columbus
2 – Assuring Quality Care for Animals Inservice, 4-H Center, Columbus
18 – Ohio Valley EERA All Program Meeting, South Centers

DECEMBER:
14 – BH EERA 4-H Meeting, location TBD
16 – BH EERA ANR Meeting, EARS

Schedule (week of March 7, 2016)
Jeff (419.560.8645 – cell)
M – Virtual
T – Virtual
W – Belle Valley
T – Columbus
F - Morrow