In This Issue:
- Happy Birthday
- In Our Thoughts
- Job Posting
- Check Out Our Progress
- Vilsack Announces Funding
- Ohio Academy of Science Free Membership Opportunity
- Dependent Tuition Assistance Enrollment
- Ohio 4-H Teams Up with Bob Evans
- Ohio State Day at Cedar Point
- Ohio State One of the Nation’s Best Employers
- Blog Links
- Important Dates and Deadlines

Happy Birthday . . .
- April 7 – Sherry Bowers, Program Assistant, SNAP-Ed, Ross County
- April 10 – Peggy Blackford, Office Associate, Vinton County
- April 10 – Jo Williams, Extension Educator, 4-H, Scioto County
- April 10 – Tracy Winters, Extension Educator, 4-H and CED, Gallia County

In Our Thoughts . . . (Source: Kathy Bruynis)
Dawna Jo Kiesling who works in Highland County as the SNAP-Ed Program Assistant is currently battling pancreatic cancer. She is undergoing intensive chemotherapy. She has had a setback this week and is back at the James Cancer Center. Cards can be sent to the Highland County Extension Office, 119 Governor Foraker Place, Hillsboro, OH 45133. Please keep her and her family in your thoughts and prayers. She may need donated vacation time in the near future, and we will let you know when the need arises.

Job Posting . . .
Program Coordinator, FCS/4-H
Noble County, Caldwell, OH
JR# 416542
1.0 FTE
Post Date: March 26, 2016
Deadline Date: April 10, 2016
To Apply
Check Out Our Progress on Campus Campaign! . . . (Source: Cindy Torppa)

We’ve reached the half way point in the time period to donate to Campus Campaign, and we in Extension have exceeded the halfway point in reaching our goal of 45% participation (our current participation is 27%)! But as you can see in the graph, we still have a long way to go to reach 45%. Thank you to everyone who has made a gift to Campus Campaign so far, and especially to our Extension faculty! 59% of our Extension faculty have given a donation! That’s wonderful and appreciated! Now we need the rest of the team to help get us to our goal!

Remember, it’s your participation, not the amount you give that matters, A one-time contribution of $1 counts toward the overall percentage of participation from Extension. You can give $1 in cash or check, $5 by credit card, or why not make an ongoing contribution that is automatically deducted each pay period? Just click here [https://www.osu.edu/giving/assets/downloads/CC/blank_pledge_card.pdf](https://www.osu.edu/giving/assets/downloads/CC/blank_pledge_card.pdf) to find a gift form.

And don’t forget – you get to select the fund you’d like your contribution to support. If you are a current faculty or staff member, you can search for funds to support by logging into the Campus Campaign online giving site at [https://www.osu.edu/giving/philanthropy-programs/campuscampaign/](https://www.osu.edu/giving/philanthropy-programs/campuscampaign/) - just click on the big red rectangular button that says, “Give Online or Search for Funds.”

A few highlighted funds:

- 309154 – Chi Epsilon Sigma (for Extension Support Staff)
- 311963 – Space Adventure Camp
- 625335 – Southeast Region Endowment Fund (donations to this account help us to offer the Region Support Staff meeting at no cost to the participants)
- [https://www.ud.osu.edu/UDweb/Secure/CampusCampaign/area/College-of-Food-Agricultural-and-Environmental-Sciences](https://www.ud.osu.edu/UDweb/Secure/CampusCampaign/area/College-of-Food-Agricultural-and-Environmental-Sciences) (in the search, type in your county)
Agriculture Secretary Vilsack Announces Next Steps, Funding to Address Substance Abuse in Rural Communities . . . (Source: USDA Office of Communications/Andy Londo)

ATLANTA, March 28, 2016 – At the Operation UNITE Summit in Atlanta, Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack announced a series of upcoming rural town halls as well as funding rural communities can use to conduct health and safety outreach around prescription painkiller and heroin abuse. Opioids, including prescription painkillers and heroin, accounted for 28,648 deaths in 2014, and rural communities are affected at higher rates than urban communities. This is in part due to a lack of outreach and treatment resources available in rural communities, and this year USDA is expanding its Rural Health and Safety Education (RHSE) competitive grants program to give rural communities the opportunity to use funds for programs that will address the opioid epidemic.

In January, President Obama tapped Secretary Vilsack to lead an interagency task force focused on this specific challenge. Recent efforts have helped identify effective tools to reduce drug use and overdose, including evidence-based prevention programs, prescription drug monitoring, medication-assisted treatment and the overdose reversal drug naloxone.

"The opioid epidemic is a fast-growing problem all across America, and we know that rural communities are facing an even higher burden than those in urban areas," said Vilsack. "We've identified ways to use existing resources to help rural towns and organizations address this challenge head-on and potentially save lives, and I look forward to meeting with community leaders to better understand how we can further support their efforts to create healthier, safer futures for families and individuals who may be struggling."

Over the next several months, Vilsack will travel to New Hampshire, Missouri, Nevada, Mississippi and Appalachia to participate in town halls that will bring together local and state government partners, the health community, and other stakeholders to raise awareness of the issue and discuss possible solutions. Vilsack will encourage public and private organizations to commit to plans of action for their communities.

Additionally, USDA is making available $1.4 million through its Rural Health and Safety Education (RHSE) competitive grants program. Administered through USDA's National Institute of Food and Agriculture's (NIFA), the program's goal is to enhance the quality of life in rural areas through improved health and safety education efforts, including expanding the focus to address the critical challenges of substance abuse in rural communities across the nation. For the first time, USDA is encouraging applicants to develop projects that specifically work to educate the public about opioid abuse and overdose. USDA will also consider projects that target other health outcomes.

Since 2009, NIFA has awarded $10.6 million to the RHSE program for projects that support the health and safety needs of rural America. Fiscal year 2016 applications to the RHSE program should focus on supporting projects proposing to scale-up existing, outcome-based extension programs in the area of individual and family health education to rural communities, state-wide or regionally across state lines. Programs that apply for RHSE funding in fiscal year 2016 can focus on extension work in the realm of substance abuse, as well as nutrition and physical activity, healthy and safe homes, aging in place, as well as other behavioral health and human social topics.

Applications are due June 1, 2016. More information is available in the online Request for Applications.
Past projects funded through the RHSE program include an Oklahoma State University project that aims to improve health literacy among family and consumer sciences educators, rural hospital discharge planners, and family caregivers. A project from the University of Wisconsin seeks to increase cancer treatment education and access to services for rural residents, while also forming coalitions to address rural health disparities.

Since 2009, NIFA has invested in and advanced innovative and transformative initiatives to solve societal challenges and ensure the long-term viability of agriculture. NIFA's integrated research, education, and extension programs, supporting the best and brightest scientists and extension personnel, have resulted in user-inspired, groundbreaking discoveries that are combating childhood obesity, improving and sustaining rural economic growth, addressing water availability issues, increasing food production, finding new sources of energy, mitigating climate variability, and ensuring food safety. To learn more about NIFA's impact on agricultural science, visit [www.nifa.usda.gov/impacts](http://www.nifa.usda.gov/impacts), sign up for email updates, or follow us on Twitter @usda_NIFA, #NIFAimpacts.

**Ohio Academy of Science Free Membership Opportunity . . . (Source: Kirk Bloir)**

OSU has recently joined The Ohio Academy of Science as an Institutional Member ([https://oas.membershipclicks.net/institutional-membership](https://oas.membershipclicks.net/institutional-membership)). Because of this, you can join the Academy at no cost! Please learn how to become a member, as well as membership benefits:

**How to join The Ohio Academy of Science:**

1) Go to [Professional Application (Paid by Institution)](https://oas.membershipclicks.net/institutional-membership)
2) Complete the form and click submit
3) At Checkout use the coupon code **OHIOSTATE** *
   *Please note:
   o Your coupon code **OHIOSTATE** will cover the cost of a Professional Membership ($75), but a print subscription to *The Ohio Journal of Science* will still cost $15.
   o You must use your OSU name.# email address so the Academy can verify you are a part of OSU’s membership.

**Benefits to Members:**

1) Access to members’ site: [http://oas.memberclicks.net](http://oas.memberclicks.net) where you can:
   a. Network with other Academy members
   b. Register for Academy Events
   c. **Mentor/Assist younger students on their science research projects**
2) No page charges for manuscripts submitted to *The Ohio Journal of Science*
3) Ability to attend and present an abstract at the OAS Annual Meeting (**April 15-16, Ohio University**) 

Still have questions regarding membership? Email members@ohiosci.org.

**About the Academy**

Since 1891, The Ohio Academy of Science has been promoting science and science education in Ohio as a membership based, volunteer-driven, not-for-profit organization. The Academy conducts an annual meeting
which brings together scientists and students from all disciplines across the state, science days for pre-college students, and publishes an international, multidisciplinary, scientific journal.

**Dependent Tuition Assistance Enrollment Opens for Summer . . . (Source: onCampus Today)**
Ohio State 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. The summer 2016 term enrollment window opened March 14 and closes June 17. The enrollment window for autumn 2016 opens June 27 and closes August 26. Faculty and staff can apply using Employee Self Service or paper applications. Read more

**Ohio 4-H Teams Up with Bob Evans . . . (Source: onCampus Today)**
The Ohio 4-H Foundation has been working with Bob Evans on a community fundraiser scheduled for Monday, May 16 and Tuesday, May 17. The Ohio Farm Bureau Federation, the Ohio FFA Foundation and Ohio 4-H will receive 15 percent of sales receipts from Bob Evans Restaurants in Ohio during the fundraiser on May 16-17. Every Bob Evans customer who brings in this printed flyer for dine-in, carryout or catering orders can participate. Simply present the flyer at checkout and Bob Evans will donate 15 percent of sales to the three charities (electronic versions not accepted). Print a copy here.

**Ohio State Day at Cedar Point — May 6 . . .**
Ohio State Day at Cedar Point will be held on May 6 and tickets are offered at a special price of $25. Buckeyes do have exclusive park-only access this year prior to 7 p.m. since it is the day before the park officially opens, and there are special Ohio State festivities happening throughout the day (Buckeye Bash, autograph alley, caricatures, airbrush tattoos, performances, and pop-up giveaways).

Highlights:
- First 2,000 people to enter the park will receive a free t-shirt
- Everyone can stay until the park closes at 11 p.m. (although only exclusive to Ohio State from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.)

More information and updated details can be found at: https://www.osu.edu/alumni/activities-and-events/events/events/2016/ohio-state-date-at-cedar-point.html.
Ohio State Names One of the Nation’s Best Employers . . .

Forbes has named Ohio State one of America’s Best Employers in 2016. The university ranked 53rd in Forbes’ list of 500 employers – securing the top spot in the Big Ten, second in Ohio employers and among the top 15 of all higher education institutions. The employers (composed of corporations, universities and others) were selected by an independent survey among 30,000 employees. Read more, Contact

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/

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.

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
- 28 – Region Support Staff Meeting, Fairfield County
- 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.
- 22-23 – Forage and Grazing In-service, EARS, 9 a.m. – 4:30 p.m., including Hay Day at 4 p.m. on 23rd, lima.19@osu.edu
- 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 – EEERA 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
- 26-27 – All FCS Conference, Crowne Plaza, Dublin

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:
- 6-7 – Extension Annual Conference, Ohio Union
- 14 – BH EERA 4-H Meeting, location TBD
- 16 – BH EERA ANR Meeting, EARS
Schedule (week of April 4, 2016)
Jeff (419.560.8645/Cell)
M – Piketon (Performance Reviews)
T – Belle Valley (Performance Reviews)
W – Belle Valley
T – Athens (Performance Reviews)
F – Morrow