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Congratulations . . .
to Brad Bergefurd (Scioto County and OSU South Centers) and colleagues, who were recently notified that they received a $300,000 grant for the project titled: Evaluation of Mitsui Chemicals iCAST Crop Cultivation System in Specialty Crop Production. This is a joint research and Extension project with OARDC BiOhio Research Park at Wooster, Piketon Research and Extension Center and OSU Department of Food, Ag and Biological Engineering. Brad is one of the Co-PIs on this project.

New Health Benefit Cards Coming for 2016 . . .

Faculty and staff will receive new ID cards related to Ohio State health benefits over the coming weeks. These cards are often necessary for faculty and staff to utilize for confirmation and access of their health benefits. They should continue to use their current cards until the new ones arrive, then they should destroy the old cards.

Medical/Prescription Drug Cards

New medical/prescription drug cards are being mailed to the home addresses of all 2016 medical plan enrollees from CoreSource (formerly referred to as NGS CoreSource). New cards should be received by January 1.

New Ohio State Travel Assistance Cards

New travel cards will be mailed to the home addresses of all faculty and staff who are enrolled in a university-sponsored medical plan in 2016. New for January 1, 2016, RedpointWTP LLC will provide international travel services. GlobalCare will continue to provide travel services in the U.S. (outside Ohio). New travel cards should be received by early January and replace the current GlobalCare card. Printable cards will also be available soon at hr.osu.edu/benefits.
Health Care Flexible Spending (FSA) Cards
Individuals who newly elected a 2016 health care FSA will receive a Health Care Flex Card by January 1. Current participants who re-enrolled in health care FSA for 2016 should keep their current Health Care Flex Card. The Health Care Flex Card allows easy access to the funds in participants’ fund in Health Care FSA, eliminating the need to file a paper reimbursement request.

Ed Tech Blog...
Make it a News Year’s Resolution – If you’re not yet using Box, you should start now. Earlier this year, OSU increased the storage size of Box from 50GB to unlimited for all OSU employees. This means there is no excuse to not be storing your entire hard drive in the cloud. The Box Sync app makes it super simple to sync files from your hard drive to your Box account. Once downloaded, you can drag and drop any file into the Box sync folder for instant synchronization to cloud storage. For more information visit http://u.osu.edu/extensionedtech/2015/12/17/files-at-your-fingertips/

Tri-State Diversity Conference...
Diversity and inclusion are key values of OSU Extension. This conference is a great way to add credit in the diversity area for the performance review process. Consider attending!

The Tri-State Diversity Conference A Healthy Perspective on Diversity – Progress, Partnerships and Possibilities will be held February 17-19, 2016 at the Marriott, Cincinnati Airport in Hebron, KY. We hope you will be able to join us at the pre-conference and/or the two-day conference.

More details, including registration information can be found at http://ces.ca.uky.edu/tristatediversityconference/index.html or contact Alison Johnson at Alison.johnson@uky.edu, 1.502.863.0984. Note that early registration and nominations for the Diversity Champion Awards (Individual or Team) deadlines are January 15.

Gender Initiative Symposium... (Source: Sandra Velleman and Kathy Lechman)
You are cordially invited to attend the College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences (CFAES) Gender Initiative Symposium on Tuesday, February 16, 2016. This symposium, Your Career on a Continuum: Building the Skill Set for Your Lifelong Journey, is the first event of a new task force under direction of lead faculty Dr. Sandra Velleman with support from the CFAES Office of Equity and Inclusion. Among other goals, the Initiative will work towards the retention and advancement of women’s careers in the agricultural and natural sciences.

The symposium will consist of various sessions delving into topics such as career challenges and alternative options, work-life balance, conflict resolution, and the tenure process. One main highlight will be the keynote
address, *The Crooked Path*, by Dr. Christine Daugherty, VP of Sustainable Food Production for Tyson foods. The main location will be in the 4-H Center Auditorium in Columbus, but there will be a remote viewing location with facilitators in Fisher Auditorium in Wooster.

While we hope you are able to attend the entire symposium, you are welcome to join for smaller portions as your schedule permits. The event is free-of-charge and will include a continental breakfast and lunch to those pre-registered. We require pre-registration so we can plan accordingly. You may register at [http://go.osu.edu/cfaesgender](http://go.osu.edu/cfaesgender) no later than Friday, February 5, 2016. For more information, please see the attached agenda, or contact Sandy Velleman (velleman.1@osu.edu) or Jared Morrison (morrison.332@osu.edu) with questions or concerns.

Thank you for your interest and support in this exciting new Initiative and we look forward to working with you.

**CFAES Weekly News Digest . . .**

Please be sure to visit the weekly news that is sent from the Dean’s Office at [http://u.osu.edu/cfaesadmin](http://u.osu.edu/cfaesadmin).

**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.

**JANUARY:**
- 4 – Welcome Roger Rennekamp!
- 11 – JCEP Meeting, Ag. Admin. Aud.
- 12 – BH EERA 4H Meeting, SERO
- 15 – RiV and Associated Documents Due
- 15 – Professional Presentation Support Application Due
- 28 – A&P Promotion Workshop

**FEBRUARY:**
- 2 – 4-H Professionals Update, Columbus
- 4 – OV EERA FCS Meeting, Highland County Public Library
- 10-11 – JCEP Leadership Conference, Las Vegas
- 15 – Aging In-service, green.1405@osu.edu or irving.31@osu.edu
- 17-19 – Tri-State Diversity Conference

**MARCH:**
- 2 – BH EERA 4H Conference Call
- 6-12 – Ohio 4-H Week
- 12 – Ohio 4-H Conference, Columbus Convention Center
- 16 – Legislative Lunch

**APRIL:**
- 6 – Biometric Health Screenings, SE Region Office
- 10-13 – PILD, Crystal City, VA
- 13 – State CED Meeting, F2F, Columbus
- 29 – Ohio Valley EERA All Program Meeting, South Centers

**MAY:**
- 11 – BH EERA 4-H Meeting, Morgan County
- 16 – JCEP Meeting, Carmen Connect

**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 – NAEFCS, Big Sky, Montana  
19 – JCEP Meeting, Carmen Connect  
19 – EERA 4-H Program Leaders & 4-H Specialists Meeting, Columbus  
20-22 – Farm Science Review  
28 – Region CED Meeting, F2F, location TBD

**OCTOBER:**
2-8 – National 4-H Week  
3 – BH EERA 4-H Meeting, SERO  
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