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Welcome . . .

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Dean’s Webinar . . .

Dean McPheron’s monthly webinar is scheduled for this Friday, April 17 at 1 p.m. Please hold the date. More information will be sent this week about connecting to the webinar.

This is a great way to stay involved in the Dean’s vision for the future of the College of Food, Agriculture, and Environmental Sciences.

Dependent Eligibility Verification Reminder . . . (Source: Elayne Siegfried)

Some employees in your unit may have received a Dependent Eligibility Verification packet in March asking them to verify their dependents’ eligibility to receive health care benefits through Ohio State. Xerox HR Solutions mailed packets to 6,900 employee home addresses last month.

This is an ongoing process and not everyone received a packet from Xerox HR Solutions. In 2010, all faculty and staff covering dependents on an Ohio State health plan were asked to complete a certification questionnaire attesting that covered dependents met all of the eligibility criteria. Since then, some, but not all, faculty and staff have also verified this eligibility with documentation, including new employees since April 2014 who have enrolled dependents in their health coverage. The current effort includes all remaining individuals who have not verified dependent eligibility with the required documentation. Some of these employees could be in your unit.

If those who received a packet last month do not complete their submission of documentation and verify eligibility by the April 18, 2015 deadline, their dependents will lose coverage on May 31, 2015.

What you need to do:
- If affected employees have questions, they should call Xerox’s Helpline at 1-877-248-1595, Monday through Friday from 8am – 8pm or Saturday from 9am – 2pm (EST).
- Direct employees to the FAQs at: http://hr.osu.edu/benefits/hb_dependentcertification.
Update from the Dean - Conversation on the Future of Extension . . .

More than a year ago when I asked the Steering Committee to take leadership of the Vice President’s Conversation on the Future, one of my goals was to challenge us to be adventurous and explore the opportunities we can create in a new century of Extension work and scholarship. We started the important work of visioning at the VP Summit in December during Annual Conference. The committee took the feedback collected at the Summit and has developed a variety of opportunities for you to provide additional, more in-depth ideas about preparing for and successfully navigating 2035.

The link below provides more information about the numerous face-to-face meetings, located across the state, designed to engage your imagination and gather your insight and ideas about our future opportunities. The committee has also developed a web-based survey and will be offering other distance/off-site and digital options to provide input. I hope that each of you, regardless of your position or location, finds time to participate in one of the many visioning opportunities provided. I look forward to seeing where our ingenuity, courage and creativity can take us!

http://go.osu.edu/osue2035

To learn more about the VP Conversation, visit go.osu.edu/OSUEFuture

Campus Campaign Reminder . . .

(Source: Bev Kelbaugh, OSU Extension Campus Campaign Ambassador)

Don’t forget you just have a couple more weeks to submit your campus campaign pledge or donation to be in for the drawing for some fun incentive gifts. The fudge described below sounds very tempting. And that great block O wall hanging handmade by Bev Kelbaugh is not too bad either. Seriously, a gift of any size adds to our department resources and helps us accomplish not only the campaign goal but more importantly goals for your own programming or something else that you value. We started out ahead of our contribution level for last year and of course were challenged to increase the number of donors to 45% of our Extension Employees. We can do this, but only with your help. That old philosophy, “if it is to be it is up to me” holds true on so many fronts. This is one. Go to campuscampaign.osu.edu to contribute on-line or pull out the donor packet you got in the mail, fill it out and drop it in the mail today.

For the many of you who have already contributed, Thank You! For the remainder of my friends and colleagues, let’s get this done and again thank you for everything you do in the name of OSU Extension.

Fudge Description:

- One pound of chocolate fudge and one pound of chocolate cheesecake fudge, made by Claudia Layne using the richest, freshest Pennsylvania dairy products and pure cane sugar

County 4-H Pages - Website Update . . .

(Source: Cheryl Buck)

The changes made to the State 4-H website are terrific. However, one unintended consequence is that a number of links from the county websites to sub-pages within the State 4-H site have been “broken” with the transition. This is normal because many URL links can change during an upgrade of this magnitude. Please check any of the links from your county website to pages on the State 4-H site, and update the link(s) on your website to link to the correct location. If you have trouble locating where any of the links should now be directed, please contact Tracy Grody @ grody.2@osu.edu.

The menu link that was built into the county sites for the Ohio 4-H Family Guide forwards correctly as is, as well as the Ohio 4-H Foundation link that is posted in the Additional Resources section on the 4-H landing page. There is no need for you to adjust either of these links at the county level.

4-H CARTEENS Page FYI –

The banner photo that had been preloaded on the 4-H CARTEENS landing page for each county has been removed, even if that page is unpublished on your particular county site. It was determined that the original image too closely resembled a logo which conflicts with University brand standards.
Some counties had already replaced the previous image with a photo of their own CARTEENS’ participants (example: Madison, Wood). Each county is welcome to add your own photo to that landing page to replace what was deleted.

As always, thanks for maintaining your county website. If you have any questions, contact Cheryl @ buck.19@osu.edu

**OSUE Innovative Grant Proposals due May 15th** (Source: Ken Martin)

OSU Extension Administration is again making available grants to support innovative outreach/engagement work with Ohioans; interdisciplinary work; and initiatives that once seeded through this funding, will expand Ohio State’s engagement and OSU Extension’s work with the community.

Click on the following link for information regarding submitting a proposal: [http://extension.osu.edu/policy-and-procedures-handbook/ii-administrative-and-program-resources/innovative-grants](http://extension.osu.edu/policy-and-procedures-handbook/ii-administrative-and-program-resources/innovative-grants)

*Proposals are due May 15th.*

If you have questions regarding the innovative grants, you may contact me at martin.1540@osu.edu or phone 614-292-8793.

**State Food Policy Summit – June 4** (Source: Julie Fox)

The State Food Policy Summit, sponsored by the John Glenn School of Public Affairs, will be held on Thursday, June 4 from 12:30 to 3:30 p.m. at the Nationwide and Ohio Farm Bureau 4-H Center. The Summit will be preceded by an early afternoon session that is free and open to members of local food policy councils. This session is intended to provide training and resources for local food policy councils and their members as well as create opportunities for networking and coalition-building. This session will include a civic engagement training focused on developing diversity, a presentation on balancing policy and programming, and an extended time focused on coalition-building. We hope to have representation from all local food policy councils so please feel free to share this information with your colleagues and encourage them to save the date.

**Hold the Date – Open House**

Bev Kelbaugh, Associate Professor, Southeast Region Director, will begin a new adventure when she retires June 30. She has touched so many lives through her years with OSU Extension, and we are making plans to honor her in a manner befitting the great work that she has done.

The Open House will be held at the Southeast Region Extension Office in Belle Valley (Noble County). The event will be held on Thursday, June 25 from 2:00 – 6:00 p.m. (see attached flier). The presentation will be at 4:30.

We ask that you send cards, letters, photos to the Southeast Region Office (address below) or email to Lee Ann @ johnson.82@osu.edu or Vickie @ Snyder.252@osu.edu.

If you wish to make a monetary donation towards a special gift, because we cannot purchase this item through University funds, we ask that checks be made payable to Carol Chandler (please do not make checks payable to OSU). Carol will see that proper dispersal of funds is made.

We would like to have the donations and mementos prior to June 12. Also, please RSVP to johnson.82@osu.edu by June 12 (for ordering cake and refreshments).

Donations on Bev’s behalf are also being accepted to the Southeast Region Endowment (625335) or the Richard B. and Nancy E. Stahl Family Fund (646871).

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Lee Ann or Vickie at 740.732.2381. Thank you in advance for your help in giving Bev the wonderful send-off that she so deserves!

(Please share this [flier](https://example.com) with others who might be interested. Thank you!)
At our recent EERA meeting we talked about presenting and publishing beyond the typically Ohio and National 4-H modes.

Just thought I would send out a few resources to everyone that you might consider viewing if you are interested.

www.ohio4h.org, Intranet section, under Professional Development there are 2 documents: Conferences and Journals of Interest

- Obviously this is not a comprehensive list but a good place to start

Also, www.go.osu.edu/ohio4hresearch will give you access to some research tools and templates if you are considering a research project or IRB related programming.