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Welcome to the Northeast Region . . .
Tami Kromer, Office Assistant in the Erie County Extension Office effective May 19, 2014

In the News . . .

Extension Marks 100 Years of Service
Dayton Daily News
May 14, 2014
Featured: Greene County Extension

Ohio State Researchers Recruit Citizens to Help Study Backyard Pollinators
The Columbus Dispatch
May 11, 2014
Featured: Tammi Rogers, Coshocton County Extension
http://www.dispatch.com/content/stories/science/2014/05/11/backyard-bugs.html

Columbiana County: 500 youth attend annual field day
Farm and Dairy
May 16, 2014
Featured: Columbiana County Extension 4-H

Ohio Does Well in NACAA Communications Contest . . . (Source: David Marrison)
Congratulations to Ohio for having 5 National Finalists for the NACAA Communications contest. One National Winner and 3 National Finalist were selected for each category. For Ohio, 5 out of our 6 North Central Finalist went on to become National Finalists (3 North Central Region Finalists were forwarded to the National Competition).

Congratulations on a job well done! I have attached a summary sheet which shows the State, Region, and National Placings for Ohio members who entered. Ohio did well once again!

Personal Column - Edwin M. Lentz (National Finalist)
Video Presentation - Pam Bennett, Ohio (National Finalist)
Web Site - Chris L. Bruynis & David Marrison for Ohio Ag Manager (National Finalist)
Published Photo & Caption - Emily G. Adams (National Finalist)
Bound Book - Gary Y. Gao, Jim Chatfield, Erik Draper, & Mike Ellis (National Finalist)
Public Records Policy - Need to Post in Your Office . . .  (Source: Cindy Buxton)
Each unit that serves the public should have a posted copy of the Public Records Policy in your office. Please post this somewhere where your employees can see it such as a break room or work room. If you don’t have a common space, please ensure each employee gets a copy personally.

All records requests for OSU Extension should go through Ken Martin, martin.1540@osu.edu, 614-247-8808.

Emergency Management Message . . . (Source: David Torsell Jr.)
For any county needing resource information on flooding, clean-up, preparation and more, please go to the following links for the most up-to-date information. http://eden.lsu.edu/Pages/default.aspx also go to our website at agsafety.osu.edu. Look at the menu to the left of the screen and click on Programs. Under Programs you will find Emergency Management. Click on "Emergency Management" and you will find Flood Information up-dates. There is a wealth of information and links at this site. Hope you stay dry and please . . . be safe!

EdgeU Tech: New Post . . .
Quickly Create Modern Looking Graphics for Anything with Canva

Allergic to Photoshop but still want pretty looking images to share on a blog or social media page? Canva is a cool (and very new) web tool that lets you easily and quickly create images that you can save and/or share online. Read more...

A Video Creation Workshop . . .
for amateurs is being planned for Thursday, June 5 at the OSU Marion Campus. The cost is $20 per person and will be held from 9:30-3:30 (lunch provided). Registrations are due no later than May 30 @ https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/KV63MCH. Contact Heather at gottke.4@osu.edu if you have additional questions.

Transition Temporarily Impacts NGS Website Availability . . .

A MESSAGE FROM THE OFFICE OF HUMAN RESOURCES

We are pleased to announce that our medical claims administrator, NGS, will be launching the next generation of their Self-Service Information Center on June 4, 2014. The new site will provide enhanced user access to allow you to obtain claims information, request new ID cards, and more.

In order to transition existing data and prepare the new site for launch, the current self-service site will be unavailable from May 22, 2014 through June 3, 2014.

In addition, NGS will be unable to accommodate normal system operations from May 22 through June 3, including:
· Claim payments
· Eligibility updates (including those normally sent to Express Scripts, Delta Dental and VSP)
· ID card production

New enrollments entered by May 16 are being processed by NGS so that ID cards will be mailed prior to the system freeze.

It is important to note that, even though your information is not accessible, your health plan coverage will not be affected by the system downtime. All enrollments and claims that are sent to NGS during this time will be processed when the new site becomes available on June 4.

While we recognize that this blackout period is inconvenient, it is unavoidable in order for NGS to effectively transition their system and we believe you will be pleased with their resulting new Self-Service Information Center. Some of its features include:
- **Immediate Access** – ability to view information upon initial registration, without waiting for a confirmation letter
- **Message Center** – ability to submit secure messages to all departments throughout NGS, including claims, eligibility, and customer service
- **Member Access** – ability to delegate access to family members and/or caregivers
- **ID Card** – ability to access a temporary ID card
- **Claim Summary** – ability to easily locate claims by service date, claim type, patient name, and/or status
- **Individual Accounts** – ability to provide various levels of restricted access for adult dependents
- **Online Letter Response** – ability to respond online to a request for information

To access these new features, register at [www.ngs.com](http://www.ngs.com) beginning on June 4. **Those who previously registered at NGS’s self-service site will need to re-register on the new site to preserve security.**

We appreciate your patience as we work with NGS to launch their improved Self-Service Information Center. If you have eligibility questions or immediate coverage needs, contact the Office of Human Resources, Customer Service Center at [service@hr.osu.edu](mailto:service@hr.osu.edu) or (614) 292-1050; or if you have questions related to medical claims, contact NGS CoreSource at (866) 442-8257.