Northeast Weekly Summary (NEWS)
August 11, 2014

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In the News . . .
Farmers Markets and Urban Agriculture – Sharing the Bounty
Huffingtonpost.com
August 6, 2014
Featured: Cuyahoga County Extension

Down From 35 to 21 Counties: How Can I Be of Assistance? . . .
Now that the Erie Basin is in excellent hands with Cynthia Torppa and Barb Brahm has leadership for Preble, Montgomery, Greene, and Fayette— it is time for me to fully focus on all of you in the Western Reserve and Crossroads EERAs. Now some of you may be bemoaning this newly found time I have available but I personally am very much looking forward to getting to visit your counties and to talk to more of you one-on-one and face-to-face. Please let me know of any EERA meetings, EAC meetings, budget discussions/presentations, or other activities or events you would like for me to attend. I will also be meeting with each of you soon for fall self-review visits (separate email sent last week to CEDS to sign up). Please let me know what I may have been missing over the last few months (good and bad) and tell me how I can be of assistance. First come, first serve! The lines are now open . . .

Internal Advisory Board - NE Region . . .
Dear friends-- one of my goals that I haven't moved forward on yet is to set up an internal advisory board for the NE Region. I will not be identifying these individuals; rather, I am looking for you to nominate yourself or others to participate in this effort. I will then take the names submitted and send out a survey for you to vote for those that will be on the board. I would like to have a variety of stakeholders involved across support staff, A&P and faculty. The commitment would be 4 quarterly meetings annually. Beginning in 2015, I will look to rotate members of the committee annually. This year, however, the first meeting would be in October, so I would carry the first board through until the end of 2015 and then begin the rotation in January of 2016. Please let me know if you would be interested and/or willing to participate in this effort or have another person you would like to nominate. My intent is to have the board provide feedback to me on how I can improve my efforts in the region and to offer suggestions for organizational improvement that I can share with cabinet. Please submit names to Vicki Myers (myers.26@osu.edu) for inclusion in the survey no later than August 29th. I will contact you if you have been nominated to be sure you would like to be included before I add you to the survey for your peers to vote. Let’s continue to make this region and this organization the best place to work!

Dean McPheron’s Webinar . . .
Dean McPheron’s monthly webinar is scheduled for this Friday, August 15 at 1 p.m. Please hold the date. More information will be sent this week about connecting to the webinar.
It’s Ohio State Day at the Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden
The Cincinnati Zoo is welcoming all Ohio State alumni, family, friends and guests for a one-of-a-kind opportunity!

• First 100 guests will receive a special Ohio State gift
• Early admission at 9 a.m. for Ohio State guests, with exclusive celebration of the 100th anniversary of Hamilton County Extension at 9:15 a.m. in Vine Street Village
• Buckeye Scavenger Hunt with giveaways and interactive education stations
• Discounted parking available for pre-purchase
• Exclusive hotel rates, from $109, at the Kingsgate Marriott, on 8/15 or 8/16. (Use promo code OADOADA or call 888-720-1299 and mention “The Ohio State University Alumni Association Alumni Day”)

Ohio State Day at the Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden
Saturday, August 16, 2014
9 a.m. to 6 p.m.
3400 Vine St.
Cincinnati, OH 45220
Directions

COST
Special Ohio State admission: $9
(Regular admission can be purchased at gate: adults $15, children $11)

Purchase tickets at cincinnatizoo.org/osuday. Discounted tickets are not available at the door.

QUESTIONS?
Please contact the Cincinnati Zoo at 513-281-4700.

Nominate an Outstanding Staff Member - Deadline is August 31 . . .

CFAES STAFF ADVISORY COUNCIL
2014 Above and Beyond Awards and Shirley Brooks-Jones Award

Shirley Brooks-Jones Award
$500 to recognize staff excellence

Key Values Award
$300 to recognize staff with less than 3 years of experience

Innovation Award
$300 to recognize staff for new improvements to the workplace

Special Recognition
$300 to recognize special assistance

Nominate an outstanding staff member at go.osu.edu/SAC-recognition-awards
Due date: August 31, 2014
Contact Jo Brown with questions: brown.1561@osu.edu, 917-521-3866.
Final Notice for Early Bird Registration . . .

Early Bird Registration for the 2014 ESP National Conference will end at midnight on Friday, August 15th!! This is your final reminder to take advantage of the lower price. After Friday the rate increases by $50 to $475. Click the “Register Now” link to register for the conference.

Voting Delegates need to be registered by August 15th. That is the deadline to submit your chapter’s delegate for the 2014 National Council Meeting held during ESP’s National Conference. To register a delegate, go to ESP’s homepage and click on the “Conference Delegate Registration” link in the upper right hand corner.

2014 President’s Theme Award “Growing the Extension Professional – the next 100 years” Deadline - September 1st

We hope you are being creative and recording your chapter activities to put your chapter in the running for this award. Here are the basic criteria:

- This is a chapter award,
- The theme, “Growing the Extension Professional – the next 100 years” – that may mean a creative chapter professional development venture, a chapter marketing campaign, a unique membership drive,
- You will create a 2-minute video and a 1-page summary that can be loaded on ESP’s YouTube site, and,
- The winning chapter will be recognized at our National Conference in Indianapolis. The winning chapter will receive a $500 cash award.

ESP Elevator Speech Contest - Time to Prepare Your Entry

- This year’s competition will be at the National ESP Conference “Extension Professionals: Racing into the Future,” in Indianapolis, October 6-9.
- Focus on Extension as a unit - not one specific program area
- Time limit of 30 seconds or word limit of 75 words
- 1st, 2nd and 3rd placing will include monetary incentives

Submissions may be sent prior to the conference through October 1 or can be recorded at the National Conference. If you plan to submit an entry by October 1, email your submission to Luke Erickson at Erickson@uidaho.edu. If you are planning to record your entry at National Conference, find us in the poster session area where Public Issues Committee members will be camera ready! For more information contact us at espoffice@espnational.org.

ESP Silent & Live Auctions at National Conference - Don’t forget to start collecting unique items for the ESP Silent & Live Auctions held during National Conference on October 7th. If you need to mail your items ahead of time you can mail them to: Purdue Extension, Howard County, Howard County Government Building, Ste 105, 120 East Mulberry St., Kokomo, IN 46901.

Request for Universal Design Exhibit Volunteers FSR 2014 . . . (Source: Pat Holmes)

Request for Volunteers to help in the Universal Design exhibit before or during Farm Science Review

Please consider volunteering to help tour visitors through the Universal Design exhibit September 16 - 18, 2014 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. during Farm Science Review. The exhibit is located at the McCormick Building on Friday Avenue. Choose the day and hours that work best for you. You can work 2 hours, 4 hours, or all day.

To volunteer contact Pat Holmes, FCS educator, Ohio State University Extension, Montgomery County at holmes.86@osu.edu or 937-224-9654 ext. 102. If you would like to tour the exhibit in advance or bring a group from your county, contact Pat to make arrangements for date/time/group size.

If you are not available to help during Farm Science Review (especially because of NEAFCS Conference) please consider one of these ways you can help:

- Help with final preparations of the exhibit on either Friday, September 12th or Monday, September 15th from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
- Suggest volunteers from your county who might be interested in helping guide visitors through the exhibit during FSR. (Usually I provide them with a free pass in the gate.)
On-site training will be provided for all volunteers who may not have worked with Universal Design at all or not very much. Check out the video at http://ehe.osu.edu/ud. More information about FSR, including directions, is posted online at http://fsr.osu.edu. An OSU ID gets you into FSR. If you are not available to help, please share this information with others in your office or Volunteers who might be interested.

Universal Design is a philosophy based on the idea that products and environments can be attractively designed to meet the needs of all ages and abilities. Use of Universal Design principles uses exterior and interior features to maximize safety and independence for everyone. The Universal Design housing display is located in the McCormick Building at the Molly Caren Agricultural Center - Home of Farm Science Review, 135 SR 38 NE, London, OH 43140 just south of I-70. This is an on-going collaborative project involving the following partners: Ohio State University Extension; The Ohio State University College of Education and Human Ecology; The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center, School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences; Dave Fox Home Remodeling; Lowe’s Home Improvement Warehouse. The exhibit features kitchen, bath, laundry/mud room, AgrAbility garage, gardening tools/raised flowerbed, and an educational space with emphasis on ease-of-use for all ages and abilities. Additional lighting was added in 2013.

Changes in 2014 include some remodeling and re-painting. 2 porch lights will be installed at the exhibit entrance thanks to donations from Lowe’s and Dave Fox Remodeling. The State Fire Marshall will also set up an exhibit next to our Universal Design exhibit. To celebrate Extension’s Centennial we plan to feature “kitchens of the past” thanks to Carol Miller sharing her collection of kitchen photos.

Thank you for your consideration of this opportunity.

**OSU Extension Promotion Workshops – Save the Date . . .**

**WHO:** Extension faculty and A&P educators  
**WHEN:** Session One - Wednesday, November 12  
Session Two - Tuesday, January 27, 2015 (repeat of November)  
**WHERE:** Administration Building Auditorium, Columbus, OH

Registration information will be available in September. Questions, contact Lisa Dune, dune.2@osu.edu

**OPERS Health Care Eligibility Requirements are Changing in 2015 . . .**

Beginning January 1, 2015, to qualify for retirement, OPERS members will be required to either have at least 20 years of qualifying service and be at least 60 years old, or have 30 years of qualifying service at any age. This means OPERS members who are eligible to retire with an effective date of December 1, 2014 or prior will have until November to decide whether or not to retire under the current health care eligibility rule of 10 years of qualifying service. It is important for employees to review the facts and determine how it applies to their particular situation before making a decision. Those who determine it is the right time to elect retirement must:

- Terminate public employment and be off the payroll no later than November 30, 2014.
- Apply for retirement.
- Have a benefit-effective date on or before December 1, 2014.

OPERS has encouraged employees who are considering their retirement options to take proactive steps in making their decision. Potential retirees should:

- View the retirement planner at www.opers.org.
- If deciding to retire, file early.

Calls and questions about retirement decisions and an individual’s specific situation should be directed to OPERS at 800-222-7377.

**Nominations . . .**

Remember that there are many upcoming opportunities to nominate your colleagues for recognition at Annual Conference. Be thinking about nominating your peers for the various awards. We will share forms and deadline information as they become available.
Learn More about the USDA SBIR Grant Program . . .  (Source: Dennis Hall)

On **August 21 at 1pm**, Mr. Scott Dockum, Program Coordinator with the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) will be conducting a webinar about the USDA Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) grant program. Anyone interested in learning more about the USDA’s SBIR program, including small business owners, researchers, state and local government representatives, and academics are welcome. For more information on the USDA SBIR program visit: [http://www.nifa.usda.gov/funding/sbir/sbir.html](http://www.nifa.usda.gov/funding/sbir/sbir.html).

The USDA SBIR program recently released its FY15 solicitation for Phase 1 proposals to the Small Business Innovation Research program. The program seeks technological innovation in various areas relevant to agriculture. In the current solicitation, the two program priority areas are agriculturally-related manufacturing technology and energy efficiency and alternative and renewable energy. The specific topics areas are:

- Forests and Related Resources
- Plant Production and Protection - Biology
- Animal Production and Protection
- Air, Water and Soils
- Food Science and Nutrition
- Rural and Community Development
- Aquaculture
- Biofuels and Biobased Products
- Small and Mid-Size Farms
- Plant Production and Protection - Engineering

Phase 1 awards are for $100,000 with an 8 month period of performance. Applications must be submitted by October 2, 2014. Join us on August 21 to learn more.

If you have any questions, please contact: Brent Hartman, Ohio Aerospace Institute, brenthartman@oai.org, 440-962-3113

U. S. Postal Service Issues Farmers Markets Stamps . . .

In case you missed it, the United States Postal Service unveiled and issued stamps today celebrating the abundance and bounty of America’s farmers markets with Postmaster General Patrick R. Donahoe and USDA Secretary Tom Vilsack participating in the ceremony. Some of our CARET delegates, along with many of us, are involved in or enjoy the farmers markets across the country.

To view the stamps and the laudatory commentary on farmers markets, click on the link below: [https://store.usps.com/store/browse/productDetailSingleSku.jsp?categoryNav=false&navAction=push&navCount=0&productid=S_472504&categoryId=buy-stamps](https://store.usps.com/store/browse/productDetailSingleSku.jsp?categoryNav=false&navAction=push&navCount=0&productid=S_472504&categoryId=buy-stamps)