Congratulations! . . .

To Jenny Morlock (Wood County) for receiving the NEA4-HA 2016 Distinguished Service Award at Annual Conference.

To Mike Gastier (Huron County) for receiving the NACAA 2015 Achievement Award at Annual Conference.

To Bruce Clevenger (Defiance County) for receiving the ANR Distinguished Service Award (20 Years and Over) at Annual Conference.

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Happy January Birthdays …

- January 4  Kelsey Johnson – Program Assistant, Lucas County
- January 8  Becky Guinther – Program Assistant, Crawford County
- January 12  Eric Richer – Educator, Fulton County
- January 16  Ed Lentz – Educator, Hancock County
- January 24  Cassie Anderson – Educator/Director, Hancock County
- January 24  Heather Gottke – Program Coordinator, Van Wert County
- January 25  Jane Wyse – Office Associate, Fulton County

Northwest Region Newsletter

Benefits (Source: Amy Burns) . . .

**New Health Benefits 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.

**What you need to do:**

- Please use your new card, not your old card

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**Cindy Torppa’s Schedule for December 28 – January 1**

Monday: Hancock County  
Tuesday: Seneca County  
Wednesday: Region Office  
Thursday: Virtual  
Friday: Holiday
Planning to Apply for Promotion in 2016? (Source: Ken Martin)  

If you are considering a promotion request in 2016, the first step is to discuss this with your Regional Director and/or Assistant Director. You are encouraged to initiate this discussion in January and provide your supervisor with a copy of your dossier so they can provide informed feedback regarding the potential for your success in this process. If you decide to move forward, note the deadline below for submitting a letter to the department chair.

To request (1) a department review for promotion to Educator III or IV, (2) a non-mandatory faculty promotion review, or (3) an untenured assistant professor faculty appointment without a national search, submit a letter of intent no later than midnight Monday, March 7, 2016 to Ken Martin, martin.1540@osu.edu, and Lisa Dune, dune.2@osu.edu. Address the letter to: Ken Martin, Department Chair, 2120 Fyffe Road, Room 3, Ag Admin Building, Columbus, OH 43210. Also send a copy of the letter to your supervisor.

After the department has received the letter of intent, the candidate will receive a confirmation email. Reference the A&P Promotion Guide or the Faculty Promotion Guide for further details regarding the review and items due. The 2016-2017 guidelines will be made available in January.

Questions may be directed to your supervisor, the Administrative & Professional Promotion Committee Chair, Nate Arnett, arnett.67@osu.edu, the Faculty Promotion and Tenure Committee Chair, David Civittolo, civittolo.1@osu.edu, or Ken Martin, Chair of the Department of Extension at martin.1540@osu.edu.

No January First Friday Coffee Break with an Ed Tech . . .

Due to the holiday, the Ed Tech’s will not be hosting their monthly First Friday Coffee Break with an Ed Tech January 1. Please mark your calendar for their first Coffee Break of 2016 on February 5 at 10:00 a.m.

CFAES Gender Initiative Symposium Registration is Now Open (Source: Ryan Schmeising) . . .

CFAES will kick off its Gender Initiative with a symposium. This symposium, Your Career on a Continuum: Building the Skill Set for Your Lifelong Journey, will be on Tuesday, February 16, 2016.

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 no later than Friday, February 5, 2016.

For more information, please see the Gender Initiatives web site, or contact Sandy Velleman (velleman.1@osu.edu) or Jared Morrison (morrison.332@osu.edu) with questions.

**WKSU Interview with Pat Bebo . . .**

WKSU 89.7 reporter Tim Rudell recently held a brief interview with Pat Bebo, interim FCS assistant director and Nutrition Programs director, regarding Ohio State University Extension’s approach to the federal SNAP-Ed program.


**Calling All ANR Educators (Source: Emily Adams) . . .**

As we reflect on our year in ANR, we turn to 2016 with anticipation for creative programming and meaningful research. One effective way to communicate the work you are doing is through the *Journal of the National Association of County Agricultural Agents (NACAA)*. This peer-reviewed journal is published twice a year, and the deadline for the next publication is March 15. Since most of our schedules are very busy in the January through April time frame, I want to get this on your radar now before you flip the page to 2016.

Volume 8, Issue 2, of the Journal of the National Association of County Agricultural Agents was published just a few weeks ago. Two of the 17 articles were authored by our OSU colleagues. Below are links to their articles. You can also find the entire journal online at: Journal of NACAA, Volume 8 Issue 2.

- Arnold, G.J. Corn Yield Results from Sidedressing with Liquid Livestock Manure
- Penrose, C.; McCutcheon, J.; Landefeld, M. Utilizing Urease Inhibitors With Urea To Stockpile Fescue

Learn more about publishing in the Journal of NACAA here: Call for papers to be published in Journal of NACAA