Roger Rennekamp, our new Extension Director, will be joining us for the Extension Annual Conference on December 8 and 9. The conference schedule includes time with Roger on December 8 from 11:30 to noon. He is envisioning a modified Q&A format during this time; and as such, in the interest of maximizing the time available, I invite you to submit your questions in advance. Please send me the questions you’d like to see addressed by December 1. Send to davis.1081@osu.edu. Thank you!
Web-based Survey Training (Source: Debby Lewis) . . .

Please join the members of the Program Development and Evaluation Unit for a web-based survey workshop in Columbus on Monday, December 14 from 9 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Seating is limited so please register soon at http://go.osu.edu/WBStrainingCbs.

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. This week’s items include but are not limited to:

- Spring Term Dependent Tuition Assistance
- Benefits Confirmation

Annual Conference Registration (deadline December 1 – NO LATE REGISTRATION ACCEPTED) . . .

The Annual Conference registration is now open at https://go.osu.edu/EACregistration. The deadline for registration is December 1. No late registrations will be accepted. Conference information can be found at https://go.osu.edu/2015EAC.

- One-day registration - $95
- Two-day registration - $145

Happy November Birthdays . . .

- November 2 Vickie Griffith – Program Assistant, Defiance County
- November 4 Deb Buehrer – Office Associate, Wood County
- November 6 Flo Chirra – Educator/Director, Williams County
- November 8 Bonnie Malone – Educator, Huron County
- November 16 Kelly Gonyer – Office Associate, Wood County
- November 16 Kathy Phillips – Office Associate, Huron County
- November 19 Mary Beth Mylander – Office Associate, Sandusky County
- November 19 Gail Ritzler – Office Assistant, Lucas County
- November 20 Karen McDougall – Program Assistant, Hancock County
- November 22 Mary Beth Albright – Educator, Erie County
- November 24 Jason Hartschuh – Educator/Director, Crawford County

Cindy Torppa’s Schedule for November 16 – 20

Monday: Sandusky & Paulding Counties
Tuesday: Fulton County
Wednesday: Williams & Van Wert Counties
Thursday: P & T Workshop
Friday: Camp Ohio Board Meeting
Two Wood County youth earned national championships at the recent National Youth Engineering Challenge held at Purdue University.

Jacob Brickner won the Small Engines event individually and was a member of Ohio’s Engineering Bowl quiz championship team. Kira Miller was one of four team members on the Ohio Robotics team that won the remote control event and placed second in the autonomous event.

Both students earned the trip to the national contest by winning the state championship at the Ohio State Fair with their respective 4-H projects.

While many still think of 4-H as farm-centered, Jayne Roth, Extension Educator for 4-H, said that’s not the case.

“More than half of the kids take projects outside of livestock. The STEM (Science Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) area is the fastest growing in the county and state-wide,” she said.

Brickner’s state project was Tune It Up, the third small engines project. Miller earned her way through her Robotics 2 project.

Both 17-year-old students are home-schooled. Each had to learn new skills and talents for the national event far beyond their 4-H state fair project requirements.

ROBOTICS — MILLER

Miller of Perrysburg Township said the national event was definitely a more realistic application of robotics than her state 4-H project. Her winning state project used a Lego Mindstorms plastic robotics kit. At the national event, the contest used a VEX Kits metal robotics.

Each state is permitted to send up to six 4-H members per team. Ohio sent four. Joining Miller on the championship Robotic Team were Tyler Nason of Fremont, Matthew Barrett of Lebanon and Eric Glaze, Waynesville.

No one knew what the challenge was until they arrived. Each team had to build one robot for each challenge.
Their competitors in the contest was a team from Maryland who had worked together for three years. The Ohio team was formed just after the state fair and had less than three months to work together.

The team divided up and spent 15 hours building the robots, including testing all the circuitry.

The remote control task involved picking up objects, like straws or cans, with the robot and maneuvering them through a hole to score points. The autonomous task was to build a robot which could navigate around the edge of the table course without falling off. The robot had to make many intricate and delicate moves.

One type of sensor would direct the robot to turn left. Another sensor used a different signal for the robot to make a right turn.

The Ohio team adorned their robots with Ohio State touches, including buckeyes for eyes. They were named Brutus and Buckeye. Buckeye also featured hubcaps, each featuring one of the four H’s in 4-H: health, hands, head and heart.

Miller is also taking classes at Owens Community College. She plans on attending Kettering University in Flint, Michigan, for chemical engineering with a pre-med option, eventually pursuing an osteopathic medical degree.

The daughter of Ray J. and Nada Miller, she is a member of the Lucky Charms 4-H club.

MALL ENGINES — BRICKNER

Brickner of Luckey said the national event also required far more knowledge and skills than his state project.
He won first place in four areas at the national level: an oral presentation, a written exam, a parts identification test and a trouble-shooting test which required the contestants to find and fix a problem with an engine.

To prepare for the event he got help from many people, including Joe Amend who operates his own machine shop near Rudolph and former Elmwood FFA adviser Ed Feasel who worked with him on his oral presentation.

This year was Brickner’s fourth trip to the state fair and his first state championship which earned him the emblematic Clock Trophy.

“I learned a lot each time. I look at this as a good life lesson. When I’m looking back I see that my many successes now are based on my past efforts,” he said. “I tried to work hard and I never took steps back — I always took steps forward. It’s now that I know how many steps I needed.”

Brickner and other engineering students joined forces in the Engineering Bowl, a quiz bowl contest on the specialty fields. He was a member of Ohio’s championship team in that event, also.

The son of Donald E. and Lisa-Ann Brickner, he is a member of the Woodys 4-H club. The junior has not yet decided how he wants to proceed after graduation. “It’s all up in the air at this point. I am interested in electrical and mechanical engineering.”

OVERALL

Both students said they learned a lot during the trip. Beyond the competition they spent a day of educational engineering-focused workshops at Purdue and a day touring local engineering companies. The educational tours included stops at a Caterpillar plant and Rea Magnet Wire.

The Caterpillar tour featured huge robots which were used in manufacturing engines far greater in size than a semi-trailer and cab.

“We are beyond blessed with the qualify of our 4-H kids,” Roth said.

By BILL RYAN, Sentinel Farm Editor
Amazon Purchases . . .

On June 1, 2015, Amazon began collecting sales tax on purchases made by all Ohio customers. The University is an instrumentality of the State of Ohio, whose purchases are exempt from Ohio sales tax. To maintain the benefit the University’s sales tax exemption while preventing any improper use, the University has established an Amazon Business Account to ensure only business-related transactions are treated as tax-exempt. Please follow the process below in order to comply with OSU policy.

Highlights:

• Units should maximize the use of University contracts found in eStores before considering Amazon.
• The OSU Amazon Business Account must be used for University business purposes only.
• No personal purchases may be made from a University email address (name.#) in the OSU Amazon Business Account. Using this tax-exempt account for personal use may cause the University to lose its tax exempt status and the individual may be held liable for fraud by the State of Ohio.
• All business-related expenses procured through the OSU Amazon Business Account must comply with University Expenditures, PCard, Purchasing and Internal Controls policies.
• Purchases from personal Amazon accounts are no longer permitted on a University PCard.
• Personal Amazon accounts should be set up with a personal email address, not your University email address (name.#)
• PCard Managers will be the only individuals permitted to use the account. All PCard managers will be given access to the system.

After your PCard Manager places your order with Amazon Business, you will need to process an eRequest. Below are steps you should follow:

1. Type in Amazon Business as the Vendor name on the eRequest
2. Attach itemized receipt (either online invoice or detailed packing slip mailed with package)
3. Attach Amazon Business Account order confirmation email (you will need to receive this from your Pcard Manager).
4. If you did not receive a packing slip you will need to make a comment that item(s) have been received.

Please contact cfaesbusiness@osu.edu if you have any questions or need clarification.
Holiday Gatherings . . .

As we approach the holiday season, many leaders wish to show their thanks and appreciation to the faculty and staff within the department. It is important that we continue to observe the highest standards of conduct in the use of university funds for business purposes and that we remain mindful of our resource stewardship. As a reminder:

- All events paid for with University funds must have a bona fide business purpose. Celebrations of specifically the holidays are considered personal in nature, and therefore cannot be purchased with university dollars. A business discussion must be the primary purpose for the gathering.
- For business events in which the leader of the department attends, all expenses must be approved by the Dean’s Designee, Ryan Schmiesing, via the ad hoc process in the financial systems.
- Where possible, leaders should use discretionary funds to pay for meals provided to groups of university employees.

For additional detail on requirements and procedures, I encourage you to read the OSU Expenditures Policy. Thank you for your assistance in maintaining good stewardship of University funds.