Another successful Congressional Assistants’ Tour was held at OARDC and ATI on August 13. Congressional staff members who work with agricultural issues for the Ohio delegation had an opportunity to tour the campus and learn about a wide variety of research and educational opportunities offered there.
Happy September Birthdays …

- September 1  Deb Walters – Office Assistant, Defiance County
- September 5  Kathy Booher – Educator/Director, Ottawa County
- September 13  Nancy Stehulak – Educator/Director, Henry County
- September 15  Jessica Suman – Program Assistant, Van Wert County
- September 19  Allen Gahler – Educator, Sandusky County
- September 21  Teresa Johnson – Educator, Defiance County
- September 22  Jill Stechschulte – Educator/Director, Fulton County
- September 25  Caitlin Jones – Program Coordinator, Van Wert County
- September 29  Amy Stone – Educator/Director, Lucas County

Extension Name Badges: New Contact Person (Source: Toni Bahnsen) . . .

Just a quick note to let you know that there has been a transition in job duties in relation to ordering Extension name badges.

Dawnn Brown will be your contact person for ordering Extension name badges (for new employees and replacement name badges) effective September 11, 2015.

Please send any requests or questions you might have to Dawnn at brown.1283@osu.edu or 614-292-6181. Dawnn is located in the CFAES Extension Administration office, Room 3, Ag. Administration Building, 2120 Fyffe Road, Columbus, Ohio 43210.

Please see the attached for more information on ordering name badges.

2015 County Highlights . . .

This is just a reminder that you should be working on the 2015 County Highlights.

- The County Highlights are to be submitted on the BuckeyeBox template BEFORE October 30 by the County Directors (or designee).
- The Region Directors will then have until November 16 to review and pass the approved template content to the County Directors.
- The County Directors will then have until November 18 to finalize the template content and place it into the “Incoming to Marketing and Communications” folder for a style edit by Heather Gates.

If you have any questions about submitting the County Highlights for this year, please contact the Region Office at 419.373.4922.

Cindy Torppa’s Schedule for September 21 – 25

Monday: Campus Review
Tuesday: Farm Science Review
Wednesday: TBA
Thursday: Farm Science Review
Friday: Paulding Co. Fall Visit
Message from the Dean . . .

We have a great deal of activity coming up in the college over the next several weeks with the annual Farm Science Review this week and Homecoming activities on October 9-10. During my remarks at FSR, I'll highlight progress or opportunities related to several college priorities. During my annual State of the College address on October 9, I'll share more information about the great things happening in our college as well as opportunities we have in the coming year.

Recognizing these two important events, I cancelled last Friday's monthly webinar. We'll capture highlights from Farm Science Review and share through a video message on Monday, September 28, so please be watching your email.

Also, you should have received the September CFAES Monthly via email on September 17. Included:
- On the Road: 2 Days with Buckeyes in Northeast Ohio
- President Drake’s Ohio Tour Includes CFAES, Field to Faucet
- ‘Tackling Critical Issues in Today’s Society’: CFAES and the Discovery Themes
- 31 Reasons to Celebrate, 31 People You Should Get to Know
- Recognition: APS President; Nematologists’ Student Award
- Good Reading: New and Revised Fact Sheets on Ohioline

Extension State Specialist, 4-H Youth Development, Animal Sciences, Interviews (Source: Lisa Jinks) . . .

The search committee for the Extension State Specialist, 4-H Youth Development Animal Sciences position has identified two candidates for interviews and presentations on, Monday, October 19, 2015. Each candidate’s curriculum vita can be reviewed at: https://osu.box.com/s/5ibn9ofmv886wtqby2sts1iyh1233vz0

You are invited to attend in person at the Nationwide & Ohio Farm Bureau 4-H Center Room #220 or view the candidate’s presentations via Carmen Connect and complete feedback surveys. View candidate presentations at these times:

- 2:00 p.m. – Keegan D Gay
- 3:00 p.m. – Benjamin A Wenner

Link to view presentations:

Use this link to log in as a guest to the Carmen Connect Meeting entitled OSU Extension 4-H State Specialist, Animal Sciences http://carmenconnect.osu.edu/hhhhsearch/.
Action Requested: Faculty/Staff PHA Completion by September 30 . . .

Time grows short for you to complete the steps to ensure that you have a full range of choices – and financial benefit through credits toward your premiums – in your 2016 OSU Medical Plan. Follow these two steps to ensure you have options during the upcoming open enrollment period:

Earn up to a $480 Premium Credit & 2016 Medical Plan Choice in 2 easy steps.

Step 1: Complete a Biometric Screening. Obtain required health values including; height, weight, blood pressure, total cholesterol, HDL and a blood sugar value (either glucose or A1C) from your Primary Care Provider (PCP) or at a free on-campus screening.

Step 2: Complete the Personal Health & Well-Being Assessment. The PHA is a confidential online questionnaire that assesses factors that are critical to your health, well-being and your ability to improve or maintain both. It should take 15-20 minutes to complete.

Make sure to complete these steps by the September 30 deadline!

If you are looking to confirm you have completed all the requirements for earning plan choice and premium credit visit yp4h.osu.edu for a step-by-step verification.

Also, below are a few excerpts regarding 2016 Open Enrollment:

Without completion of the PHA, you will be limited to only one benefit plan option.

For 2016, there are several plan changes that may impact you. These updates include a revised prescription drug formulary and higher plan benefits for using dental providers in the PPO network.

We are also introducing tiered medical plan contributions based on compensation for full-time faculty and staff. A letter will be sent to your home address by October 16 identifying your tier.

Communication will be shared in the coming weeks in advance of Open Enrollment to help you select benefits based on your needs. Learn more about choosing your health benefits at http://hr.osu.edu/oe
JCEP/ESP Awards Deadline . . .

is Thursday, October 1. Now is the time to complete your application, nominate your peers, or consider community partners for an award! The awards categories are listed below. All applications for these awards are at http://go.osu.edu/ojcepawards

Award Categories:

- **Team Teaching** – single-program area or multi-disciplinary teams, and categories specifically for teams with non-Extension Collaborators! At least 50% of the team must be JCEP/ESP members.

- **Creative Works** – Do you have a great newsletter, website, TV program curriculum package, fact sheet, media production or other educational or marketing item you or your team created? This is the category to get those works recognized. All Extension Professionals (including non-faculty and non-ESP members) are eligible to enter their work in this competition.

- **Friend of Extension** – think volunteers, business leaders, organizations, elected officials and more ... up to 3 recipients will be recognized, with one being selected to represent Ohio through the National ESP award nomination process.

- **Excellence in Extension** – annual award recognizing a superior Extension educator; based on excellence in teaching, research and service. This is Ohio Extension’s highest honor! Any Extension employee who is a current member of Epsilon Sigma Phi is eligible. The award can be received one time only. The award includes a cash award of $1,000 plus the addition of $1,000 to the base salary.

- **ESP Special Chapter Awards** – Nominees are eligible to receive an award in any one category only once. A complete list of previous ESP Award Winners is available on the site with the applications. Chapter winners will be asked to complete a Regional/National Award Application in January. Award nominations require a 60-word-or-less abstract about the nominee. Categories are listed below. See application for details on each award.
  - **National DSA Ruby Award** – Must be an OJCEP member
  - **Administrative Leadership Award** (must have 10 or more years of service)
  - **Diversity Multicultural Recognition (Individual)** – (Must be an OJCEP member)
  - **Diversity/Multicultural Recognition (Team)** – At least 50% of team members must be current OJCEP members
  - **International Service Recognition** – (Must be an OJCEP member)
  - **Visionary Leadership Recognition** – (Must be an OJCEP member)
  - **Continued Excellence Recognition** – Must be an OJCEP member. Eligible for nomination five years after receiving chapter DSA. Minimum of 20 years in Extension
  - **Meritorious Support Staff Service Recognition** – for support staff who have demonstrated excellence in supporting Extension programs.
  - **Retiree Service Recognition** given to a current OJCEP/ESP member who is an OSU Extension Retiree.

Applications are due (to the individual listed on each application) no later than midnight, October 1! (*Creative Works must be mailed hard-copy and post-marked no later than midnight, October 1.*)
U.S. News & World Report has named Ohio State the top public university in Ohio in its annual “America’s Best Colleges” rankings. The university is #16 among the nation’s best public universities in rankings released Wednesday (9/9). It’s an improvement from last year, when Ohio State was ranked #18 among publics. Ohio State was rated #8 (#7 among publics) among 147 schools with online programs and is recognized for offering several programs that help students succeed, including a First Year Experience, learning communities and undergraduate research. Read more: news.osu.edu/news/2015

Reminder – Insurance Reporting Form Due 9/30
(source: Cindy Buxton) . . .

Insurance is a restricted commodity and can usually only be paid with a Purchase Order. However, we have a special exemption for event insurance payments as long as they are reported annually.

You need to report insurance that is paid via an Extension Checking Account. This is primarily to be used for American Income Life Insurance (event insurance) payments but can be used for other insurances with permission from Cindy Buxton. Take a moment to look through your local checking account for the last fiscal year (July 2014-June 2015) and report all insurance expenses.

All units should report (even those that have not paid for event insurance from the checking account – there is a place to record this). http://cfaesfinance.osu.edu/node/84/insurance-reporting-form

You do not need to report anything paid with the PCard or with a Purchase Order as this can be captured from data in the General Ledger by the Business Office.