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.

USDA FNS Grant Opportunity – School

USDA FNS hereby announces the availability of funds and opportunities to conduct comprehensive school wellness policy surveillance at multiple levels, including state- and school district-levels. The funds will support public or private, non-governmental research institutions (such as accredited institutions of higher education and/or non-profit organizations) to enter into a cooperative agreement with USDA FNS for school wellness policy surveillance, research, and reporting that complement other national existing school wellness policy surveillance systems and assist the USDA in fulfilling its Congressional monitoring and surveillance mandate, as delineated in the Healthy Hunger Free Kids Act (HHFKA). The purpose of this announcement, therefore, is to describe the new opportunity and solicit proposals to support these aims. For additional information visit:
http://www.fns.usda.gov/schoolwellness-policy-cooperative-agreement
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

Happy August Birthdays…

• August 4  Ellen Shaw-Office Associate, Fairfield County
• August 22 Mary Longo-Educator/CED, Marion County
• August 27 Jennifer Driesbach-Office Associate, Pickaway County

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.

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.
• View the “Your Path to Retirement- Learn, Plan, Act” page at wwwo.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.
Extension in the City…

Ready to extend your professional network and gain new insight into the who what, where, why, and how of OSU Extension in the City? Discover how team participation can help you be more locally relevant, responsive statewide and recognized nationally. The travel and time will be worth your investment.

Please join the OSU Extension in the City gathering on August 21 at the Nationwide and Ohio Farm Bureau 4-H Center, 2201 Fred Taylor Dr, Columbus, OH 43210.

RSVP to fox.264@osu.edu by Aug 15 to receive pre-event resources and a parking pass.

Agenda:
9:30 Registration and Networking
10:00 Welcome and Introductions (name, city, networking note)
10:30 History ‘Flash’ Back and Current Approach of Ohio & National Extension in the City
10:45 What Makes Extension Unique in the City? (guest speaker/dialogue)
11:30 What is the ‘Essential’ Contribution Extension Brings to the City?
11:45 Team Tools for Internal and External Collaboration
12:00 Lunch
12:30 Working Group Sessions
(Group Focus & Priority Plan of Action, Nat’l Conf. Proposal, Internal/External Communications)
- Food & Ag in the City
- 4-H Youth Development in the City
- Health & Wellness in the City
- Economy & Employment in the City
- Other Emerging Issues (Energy & Environment, Sustainable Cities)
2:00 Group Reports - 5 Min @
2:30 Next Steps
- Action Plan Connections - Most important actions for our highest contribution
- Calendar of internal and external communications & events
- Leadership in the City Professional Development
3:00 Event Evaluation & Adjourn

You will also meet the new OSU Extension in the City Program Assistant who will be helping us to finalize print communication, update our emerging website, http://cityextension.osu.edu, launch our blog, … and move forward on our action plans.

2014 CLRFS Food Security Conference…

September 29-October 1, 2014 - Cleveland, Ohio.
The eXtension Community of Practice (eCoP) on Community, Local & Regional Food Systems (CLRFS) is hosting a Food Security Conference in Cleveland, Ohio, entitled Building Extension Capacity to Address Community Food Security through Food Systems. Its goal is to concretely position food security as a priority in food system research and practice, and to enhance Extension’s capacity to work on food security and food systems.

Venue: Hilton Garden Inn Cleveland Downtown, 1100 Carnegie Avenue, Cleveland, Ohio, 44115
216-658-640
Conference room rate: $111 plus applicable taxes.
Parking is $12 for overnight and $5 per day for attendees who are not staying at the hotel.
Click here to see the current Agenda.

Registration will open very soon! There are funds to provide partial travel reimbursements for up to 60 participants. The reimbursements are granted on a limited, first come first served basis with a bonus point system. They are available in amounts ranging from $200-$500 per recipient. The deadline is August 22, so hurry and fill out this survey to apply. We are striving for diversity among our conference attendees and we are really encouraging everyone to apply for a reimbursement.

If you have any questions, please direct them to Katie Wright (katiew@uark.edu), or Brian Raison, Conference Chair (raison.1@osu.edu).
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.