



July Extension CD e-Newsletter

July 2006



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Associate Professor and Extension Specialist
Community Development

The CD e-newsletter is designed to communicate, inform and connect people, all across Extension, who are working on community issues. It contains reviews of recent programs, announcements of future programs and workshops, and running commentary on current CD projects. This month we have added a table of contents to help readers make the best use of this tool. Enjoy.

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From Ken's Desk

Interim Assignments

Keith Smith sent a letter last week indicating that in addition to serving as Assistant Director for Community Development and Interim Associate Director for Programs, I will also be serving as Interim Department Chair for Extension. Among other things, this will mean more meetings and increased responsibilities especially for the promotion and tenure process. I look forward to working with Keith and Linda Kutilek, Interim Associate Director for Operations during this time of transition brought about by Nikki Conklin's retirement and Barb Ludwig's new position. I want to assure you that I will make every effort to manage my time wisely and carry out the roles and responsibilities for all three assignments. With regard to the CD assignment, we have a good administrative support team in the CD office and Greg Davis is doing a great job with his partial assignment as associate program leader for CD. Communication is key so please continue to share your thoughts and ideas on how we can continue to make our CD program better.

Van Wert County Economic Development Dinner

You will recall that Van Wert County was one of the finalists for the Honda plant which is going to be constructed in Indiana. Nancy Bowen, OSU Extension Educator and Van Wert County Economic Development Director, played a major role in organizing the effort to put together the package that was presented to Honda for the County. While Honda ultimately chose a site in Indiana, it is important to note that the hard work and effort put together for the opportunity in Van Wert was not done in vain. Several reports on the effort in Van Wert County indicated that there was a lot of cooperation between the city of Van Wert and the County in working together to deal with the infrastructure, zoning and other issues. This approach and attitude will likely turn into a major opportunity for economic development in the future. I attended the annual Van Wert County Economic Development Dinner earlier this month. At the dinner, the Mayor of Van Wert was recognized and he talked about the tremendous effort that everyone contributed to in responding to the opportunity. He also introduced the Mayor from Salina and the Mayor from Lima, two communities that are not in Van Wert County. He also made a reference to the interest and support from the Commissioners in neighboring counties.

In a lot of ways this example of a response to an economic development opportunity is following the new model for rural development that has been promoted by the Center for Rural America at the Federal Reserve Bank in Kansas City. The Center has promoted the concept of "rural regions" as an advantage and an approach to successful rural development. It was clear to me in listening to the comments of the participants at the dinner and in hearing and reading about the reports of the effort to put together a creditable package to attract Honda, that this was truly a regional effort that transcended political boundaries. The community leaders in the region determined what their assets and resources were, looked at what was needed to position themselves to respond as a region and as one of the speakers said, "*they got up to the plate to take a swing.*" I have

no doubt that something positive will come of all this effort and energy put forth by the communities and individuals in the Van Wert and surrounding region in a future economic development opportunity that builds on the groundwork laid by this collaborative effort.

It was especially rewarding for me to be in the audience and observe that when our educator, Nancy Bowen, was called up to give her report on economic development, she received a standing ovation from the audience in recognition of her hard work and effort in bringing together a broad-based response involving partners and the resources in the communities. This is the kind of recognition that will not always get into the annual review document, but it was a testimony to the hard work, professionalism, and credibility that Nancy brings to her position of Extension Educator and Economic Development Director of Van Wert County.

Upcoming Program Opportunities

Elsewhere in this newsletter is information on two regional meetings that will be held in August, another opportunity to participate in the Foundations of Practice Component One – Understanding Communities and Their Dynamics, and a Train-the-Trainer workshop in support of the Foundations of Practice professional development program. I encourage you to consider participating in one or more of these opportunities. Also, plan on attending the September 7th workshop on “Building Community.” This promises to be an exciting opportunity to explore how community development contributes in multiple ways to local programming efforts. It is also your opportunity to share your CD programs with your colleagues.

Program, Conference and Workshop Announcements

High-Performance Teams Seminar

When you build strong Outreach & Engagement programs, you do it as part of a team, a team of community and university partners. How can you increase the odds that those teams are high performing and successful? Come to a FREE 2-hour seminar presented by Arlen Leholm and Raymond Vlasin, noted co-authors of the book “Increasing Odds for High-Performance Teams.”

August 29, 2006

2-4 pm, Agricultural Administration Auditorium

2120 Fyffe Rd, Ohio State University, Columbus.

Register at <http://www.ag.ohio-state.edu/~admin/seminar> by August 4th.

University seminar sponsored by the College of Food, Agricultural and Environmental Sciences and Ohio State University Extension

For more information contact: Jamie Weiner, 614/292-4880.

Facilitation In-Service and Cost Recovery Opportunity

A teleconferenced in-service on August 17th from 1:30 to 3:30 will prepare Extension professionals (educators/specialists) to work with county Family and Children First councils to assist them in planning to comply with the requirements of new Ohio legislation, HB 289.

The two hour session will be video-teleconferenced to the three Extension Centers (Wooster, Findlay, Piketon) and to Columbus. The session will include an orientation by Ohio Family and Children First staff members to HB 289 and the requirements it makes on county FCF councils. It will also include an outline and materials that Extension professionals could use to facilitate FCF councils through the planning process expected of them. Some more information is below.

Educators or Specialists with skills and an interest in facilitation will benefit from this in-service program. This is an opportunity for Extension to use our facilitation skills to assist a collaborative agency in meeting their planning goals. Depending on the resources of the county program, this may include a cost-recovery opportunity for OSU Extension.

Cost for refreshments and materials will be \$10. To register for the in-service email the location you plan to attend and the account from which to withdraw the fee to either Joe Konen konen.2@osu.edu or Deanna Tribe tribe.1@osu.edu Contact them, as well, if you have questions.

OSU Employee Fund Transfer

ORG _____ FUND _____ ACCT _____ USER DEF _____

Regional Community Development Meetings

The NE Regional Community Development Meeting will be held at the NC Regional Office Conference Room in Wooster on Thursday, August 17 from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

9:30 – 11 Dialogue with Ken Martin
 Community Development Update
 Opportunities and Challenges
 Cost Recovery

11 – 11:15 Break

11:15 – 12:30 CD Educators Share Programs and Ideas

Jack Kerrigan and Paul Golden are the meeting coordinators. If you have any questions please call the Community Development Office at 614-292-6232.

The West Regional CD Meeting will be held on Thursday, August 24, 2006 at the Hancock County Agricultural Service Center. The meeting will be held from 9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. It is a chance for you to have an update on CD issues in OSU Extension, share your CD program information, and hear about other Extension programs. Dr. Ken Martin will be facilitating the meeting. We hope to see you there. An agenda will be sent in early August.

Barbara Brahm and Nancy Stehulak are the Coordinators of this meeting. If you have any questions please call the Community Development Office at 614-292-6232.

The State Office of Rural Health announces the Statewide Rural Health Conference

September 5th-6th, 2006 at the Quest Business Center, 8405 Pulsar Place, Columbus, OH 43240

This year's Statewide Rural Health Conference, "Rural Health: Build It...Keep It" will focus on outstanding community-based initiatives to improve the health and wellness of the over two million rural residents of Ohio.

For more information contact Heather Reed at:

State Office of Rural Health
Ohio Department of Health
246 N. High Street, 6th Floor
Columbus, OH 43215

Phone: (614) 752-8935

Fax: (614) 995-4235

Building Community through Multi-Disciplinary Approaches Conference

Plan to attend the "Building Community through Multi-Disciplinary Approaches: An All Extension Conference" to be held in Ag Auditorium from 9:30 to 3:00 on September 7, 2006. The program is targeted to Extension professionals interested in learning more about how to incorporate a cross-programmatic approach to their Extension work. Attendees who have 3 years or less tenure at OSU are eligible for mileage reimbursement. More detail and registration information will be forthcoming.

The planning team, Greg Davis, Pat Brinkman, Chris Bruynis, John Conglose, Nancy Kukay, Joe Konen, and Brian Raison developed a program featuring:

- A keynote address, 'Building Community into Extension Programs' by Dr. Scott Peters (Cornell)
- A 'reactor panel' of Extension personnel from Ag/NR, FCS, and 4H program areas.

- Afternoon roundtables to learn how to use, implement, and evaluate a variety of program resources which involve the development of community resources.

Proposals are being requested for the afternoon roundtable Presentations which are designed to provide participants with a nuts and bolts approach to how the programs work and how they can be integrated into existing efforts to enhance local Extension programming. Plan to submit a proposal (The deadline is extended to July 31) the Call for proposals is at: www.comdev.ohio-state.edu/pub/requestforproposals.pdf

Agenda: www.comdev.ohio-state.edu/pub/sept7agenda.pdf For more information, please contact any of the planning committee members above.

To register for the event, go to <http://www.comdev.ohio-state.edu/sept0706.html>

The Community Development program area Sponsors Six Participants to Foundations of Practice Workshop – November 2006

The Community Development program area will be sponsoring up to 6 participants of the second component of *Foundations of Practice – Developing Successful Community Initiatives* to be held November 1 – 3, 2006 in Kansas City. For more info go to <http://www.ncrcrd.iastate.edu/projects/corecomp/component2.htm>

The Workshop is the Extension North Central Region's response to NACDEP's Foundations of Practice: Community Development Core Competencies for Extension Professionals. For background info, go to: <http://www.ncrcrd.iastate.edu/projects/corecomp/fop.pdf>

This second component builds on the fundamental process skills of community development. The workshop is designed to be a "train-the-trainer" session on five general sets of process skills within three workshop tracks:

1. Civic Engagement & Community Partnerships - Community organizing, citizen participation, building relationships, building partnerships, including new populations
2. Facilitation - what is facilitation, facilitation techniques, group dynamics, small groups
3. Community Assessment & Analysis - focus groups, surveys, asset mapping, Appreciative Inquiry & other techniques

Workshop participants will return to Ohio to conduct in-service professional development programs with other Extension staff. Participants will receive a notebook of curricula materials.

Preference will be given to individuals who have participated in the Foundations of Practice: Community Development Core Competencies program conducted in Fall 2005.

For more info, go to <http://www.ncrcrd.iastate.edu/projects/corecomp/component1-fall2005.htm>

For more information or to apply, contact Ken Martin (martin.1540@osu.edu) by August 15, 2006.

7th Annual Ohio Farmland Preservation Summit

Web site: cffpi.osu.edu/summit.htm - More information will be posted soon!

On November 2, 2006, the Ohio Department of Agriculture (ODA), in cooperation with American Farmland Trust (AFT), The Ohio State University's Swank Program and Center for Farmland Policy Innovation, will host the seventh annual Ohio Farmland Preservation Summit in Reynoldsburg.

Highlights include a panel of experts from Maryland, New Jersey (invited), Pennsylvania, and Massachusetts and Ralph Grossi, president of American Farmland Trust, as the keynote speaker. Interested farmers, landowners, local officials, land trusts, citizens, and agency personnel are encouraged to participate in professional networking and strategy discussions about how to preserve Ohio farmland.

WHAT: 7th Annual Ohio Farmland Preservation Summit

WHERE: Ohio Department of Agriculture, 8995 East Main Street, Reynoldsburg

DATE: November 2, 2006

TIME: 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Contact: Kelly Carneal; 614.728.6210; kcarneal@mail.agri.state.oh.us

“A Forest Returns” Program Provides Fresh Insight into Depression-Era Reforestation Efforts

‘A Forest Returns: The Success Story of Ohio’s Only National Forest As Told By Ora E. Anderson’ is a 30-minute award-winning video documentary that presents an inspirational message about citizen participation and forest advocacy during the 1930’s Depression era. Producer Jean Andrews is currently touring Ohio and neighboring states to meet with community development organizations at conferences and workshops to show and discuss her video about the beginning of the Wayne National Forest in Southeastern Ohio. A Forest Service staff member is also available to address audience questions regarding the present management of Ohio’s only national forest. Contact Andrews to schedule a presentation with your organization at andrews@ohiolandscape.org. Extension CD Specialist Deanna Tribe and Extension Natural Resources Specialist Dave Apsley have hosted showings of the video. The program has widespread appeal to those who are interested in the environment.

Newly Formed Western Lake Erie Basin Partnership

OSU Extension's involvement in the Statewide Watershed Initiative has been ongoing for the past several years in collaboration with the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency, the Ohio Department of Natural Resources and many local communities. Another watershed initiative in Northwest Ohio has now formed including USDA – Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), US Army Corp of Engineers (USACE) and US Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur in collaboration with local watershed stakeholders.

NRCS's role is to conduct a rapid assessment of nine 8-digit hydrologic units in the Western Lake Erie Basin. These assessment reports will provide several GIS maps and data regarding the condition of the watershed on a larger scale. For more information on NRCS's plans for assessing other watersheds within the Maumee Basin go to http://www.oh.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/erie_basin/erie_basin_project.html. USACE's role is to collaborate with OSU Extension and other agencies working with local stakeholders in identifying documented existing conditions with potential solutions that could be implemented. For more on the development of this process and the WLEBP go to <http://www.lrb.usace.army.mil/missions/wleb/index.html>.

Currently, the Western Lake Erie Basin Partnership is gathering information on the Blanchard River Watershed that will be compiled in a report for Congresswoman Kaptur. Other 8-digit hydrologic units that will be assessed in the future include the St. Mary's, Auglaize, Portage, Upper Maumee, Lower Maumee, Tiffin, St. Joseph and the Ottawa River Watersheds. Counties within those watersheds are identified in a map on the NRCS web site.

The USACE's reports on the watersheds in the Western Lake Erie Basin focus on five areas including flooding, navigation, recreation, water quality and fish and wildlife habitat. While this process is different than other watershed planning models, it is similar to and compliments existing efforts including the Statewide Watershed Initiative, OSU Extension's Community Based Watershed Planning and the Lake Erie Commission's Balanced Growth Initiative.

If you have local knowledge of impaired areas that fall within the five areas of interest in the USACE areas of focus within one of the Western Lake Erie Basin watersheds and want to start a local planning effort feel free to contact Robert McCall, Watershed Educator, at the Extension Center at Lima at 419-422-6106 or email at mccall.57@osu.edu.

Grants

Proposals Being Accepted for Farmland Protection Grants

Ohio communities that want to try innovative ways to protect farmland can apply for funding from the Center for Farmland Policy Innovation at Ohio State University.

Proposals are due Oct. 2, 2006. The center expects to disburse \$180,000 for projects, and anticipates receiving requests in amounts ranging from small to large.

Although the primary applicants for this funding must be a governing body of an Ohio county, township or municipality, Jill Clark, the Center's interim Director, is encouraging applicants to partner with other communities, agencies and nonprofit organizations. Proposals must include a 25 percent local match in either direct or in-kind funding. Other criteria for proposals include:

- The project is innovative and new to Ohio. This may mean incorporating policies new to the state of Ohio or combining existing policies or programs in new and innovative ways.
- The project can be implemented within a reasonable amount of time, typically one to two years.
- The project can translate into a model (be replicable) for other Ohio communities and the local partner is willing to participate in ongoing education for other Ohio communities.
- The end result of the project is an innovative farmland policy.

Clark encourages applicants to contact the center for assistance in developing proposals and project budgets. For additional information or for a copy of the Request for Proposals, contact Clark at (614) 247-6479 or clark.1099@osu.edu, or see the center's Web site at <http://cffpi.osu.edu>.

Program Commentary

Extension's role in Developing Choice Food Pantries by Daniel T. Remley, Butler County Family & Consumer Science/Community Development Educator

Although America's food supply is bountiful and relatively cheap, hunger and food insecurity continue to be a reality of life for many Ohio families. According to the Food Research and Action Center, approximately 1 out of 10 Ohio families have experienced some food insecurity. Paradoxically, food-insecure and low-income populations are also especially vulnerable to becoming overweight and developing overweight related chronic diseases such as diabetes.

Food pantries have the potential to address both food insecurity and poor diet quality by distributing healthy food at no cost to low-income families. However, many who need assistance are sometimes reluctant to use food pantries because they might feel ashamed of asking for help. Another problem with traditional pantries is that food items are not distributed based on need or preference. Therefore, many of the commodities are wasted.

The choice food pantry model differs from traditional food pantries in that participants choose foods based on need and preference. Since food is chosen there is less waste. Also, choice pantries offer more of a dignified atmosphere especially if clients are not

used to handouts. In order to address health issues, choice pantries can integrate nutrition education with their points system for allowing participants to choose.

With the help of OSU Extension six food pantries in Butler County have adopted the choice model and food pantries in Hamilton, Warren, Montgomery, Lucas, Franklin, and Cuyahoga Counties are in the planning stages. Many choice pantries are using a system of choice based on the USDA MyPyramid Food Guidance System called the “Rainbow of Choice” system developed by Dan Remley, FCS/ CD educator. Every month, participants are allowed a limited number of choices from each of the food groups based on their family size. Extension programs, such as the Family Nutrition Program (FNP), help clients make healthy choices and use pantry commodities through cooking demonstrations, workshops, etc. FNP demonstrations are particularly helpful to choice pantries in that they help move commodities that are not readily chosen. After a series of FNP cooking demonstrations using dried figs, 10,000 lbs of figs were moved off of the shelves at Middletown Choice food pantry. This is remarkable considering the unpopularity of figs!

Remley thinks choice pantries have potential to be model for promoting health and food security in especially vulnerable populations. “With choice pantries, we aim to educate families about nutrition but also modify an aspect of the community environment in order to reinforce our education. In other words, after families learn about the food pyramid and nutrition fundamentals through FNP workshops, they have the opportunity to practice their skills as they choose their commodities.”

FNP nutritional messages, such as healthy choices and dietary variety, can be reinforced by choice pantry volunteers as well. Extension educators Dan Remley, Jenny Even, Ann Clutter, and Kathy Michelic are working on developing volunteer trainings for choice pantries. Volunteers play a key role in that they help families make healthy choices using the “Rainbow” system, stock the shelves, and perform other critical operations. Thus, the opportunity exists to train the volunteers to offer basic nutrition education within the pantry to support nutrition education objectives.

With support from an OSU CARES grant, Dr. Hugo Melgar-Quinonez from OSU Department of Nutrition, has completed focus groups with choice pantry volunteers, staff, and clients. The goal of the focus groups was to gather opinions about the process of converting from a traditional pantry to a choice pantry. “Although many volunteers and staff are often at first suspicious about change, once they move to choice they embrace it. The choice model does not add work for volunteers, it only changes it. For example, in a traditional pantry, the volunteer spends much of his time boxing or bagging whereas in a choice model the volunteer facilitates and educates.” Remley suggests.

Remley says that his skills in Community Development have really helped with choice pantry development. “Building community partnerships is what really drives this process. For example our regional foodbank, Shared Harvest, offers a better selection of commodities for those pantries that move to choice. In addition, Miami University Service Learning students volunteer at the choice pantries, providing another helpful partnership.” In Butler County Ohio, choice pantries are supported by the F.E.E.D. (Feed, Educate, Empower, Distribute) alliance. The F.E.E.D. alliance is a coalition of agencies

and volunteers addressing food security. Members include Shared Harvest, food pantries, churches, Help Me Grow, OSU Extension, Miami University, and Jobs and Family Services.

The Ohio Association of Second Harvest Foodbank, has been another key partner at the state-level. The association has developed a choice pantry promotional DVD and choice pantry instruction manual that is to be distributed state-wide to affiliated pantries. OSU Extension was a key consultant in the development of these materials.

Thanks Honda by Nancy Bowen-Ellzey Van Wert County Community Development Educator

As a finalist in Honda's well publicized location decision, Van Wert County is now officially "on the map" as an attractive location for companies and site selection consultants searching for viable sites. Strategic location and excellent labor force aside, the Van Wert area is a strong contender for several other important reasons.

So, thank you, Honda, for considering our great county as a location for your new Honda assembly plant. Our community is thrilled to have been considered for this opportunity and we remain confident and enthusiastic that we have what it takes to attract a company with similar world-class characteristics.

We are home to a solid, diversified manufacturing base including Eaton Corporation, Federal Mogul, Teleflex and Kennedy. Small to medium sized manufacturers are rapidly growing, including KAM Manufacturing and Braun Industries, who moved to Van Wert in 2000 and continues to outpace its' competition through consistent quality and service. Central Insurance Companies celebrated 130 years in Van Wert this May with an outstanding history of leadership in the community and in the industry.

A strong collaboration exists between public and private organizations that work successfully, actively and in tandem to accomplish community development goals. Goals like the newly established 122 acre Towne Center, a commercial/retail development, and the Van Wert Innovation Center, a small business incubator. Another collaborative effort, the Niswonger Performing Arts Center, is a \$9 million, privately funded state-of-the-art regional cultural facility that will open in March, 2007.

Education and health care services are among the best anywhere. Our primary school systems have new facilities or are in the process of upgrading, we have a top-rate career center and have a strong relationship with several post-secondary programs who offer customized on-site training. We have an excellent health care system through the Van Wert County Hospital, named a Solucient Top 100 Hospital in 2002. The Hospital has completed several millions of dollars of renovations in recent years.

A solid partnership has been established over many years between the Ohio State University Extension, City, County and other governmental, civic and business entities who work together to positively impact the county and the region. The partnership will

continue working together to successfully “Welcome Home” the next world-class company to Van Wert County.

The Appleseed Wool Project by Dr. Chester Bowling, Associate Professor and Community Development Extension Specialist

Previously on Appleseed Wool: You may remember that last month I began to describe a brand new project that I was working on in Plymouth, Ohio. Todd Fackler, the President of Appleseed Wool Corporation invited me to come to Plymouth and talk to him about the community and the creation of some environmentally friendly businesses. We left off last month just as Todd was about to take me for a tour of Plymouth.

Todd’s original interest was focused on the enhancement of his wool based processing business and the creation of a bicycle shop, which would be run by his son Eliot. I know from experience that social entrepreneurs like Todd are very creative and use a “stream of conciseness” thought process to work out their ideas. What that means in real terms is that during the early going of a project like this my task is to act as a sounding board. The entrepreneur throws out ideas and I try to ask questions about the venture that help them formulate a clearer picture of where they want to go.

Todd, who is a certified organic farmer, started by showing me the land he owns. It is not currently being farmed but he expressed an interest in including the farms in the revitalization of Plymouth. After the farms we headed for the center of town. As I said last month, Plymouth is a small village with one stop light. We parked on Main Street and he took me into the hardware store. The owner of the hardware store, who happened to be out when we arrived, is a big community booster. Todd wanted me to hear about Plymouth from another community member and thought that the main business person in town would be a good place to start.

The next place Todd took me was a small community museum. It was dedicated to and funded by a former matriarch of the community. Most of the museum display was a replication of her childhood home and a display of her exploits as an adult. She had married well (twice), traveled the world and mixed it up with the elite. In the basement of the building were displays of Plymouth’s short industrial period. Locomotives and Silver King tractors were made in Plymouth until the businesses were sold and moved out of town in the 30s or 40s. I guess the downturn of a community’s economy caused by the relocation of major manufacturing enterprises is not such a new phenomenon.

As we toured the basement of the museum we were joined by a retired school teacher who is a historian and big booster of Plymouth. We spend the next two hours hearing about Plymouth’s history. By the time we left my head was filled with stories of a bygone era. After leaving the museum we walked across the street to the one and only restaurant in town to have lunch. I am a firm believer in breaking bread with others as a prime way to build positive relationships. When people eat together they get to know each other on a deeper level. At lunch Todd talked about his love for the community and his concern for the increased levels of drug use by low income renters in the community. We talked about starting a Community Development Corporation (CDC) to buy up

homes that came on the market so they could be restored and sold to young families who would see Plymouth as their home and therefore maintain their property. As I was leaving, Todd agreed to gather other interested residents together for a conversation about the creation of a CDC. He promised to call me when he had that meeting set up.

Next month you will hear about the first major left turn we made in this project.