

March 31, 2013

Hi,

Just so you know up-front, this week's introduction to News & Notes will be a bit of a ho-hummer. I have not remembered a significant experience, person or event from my days as a county 4-H professional; I have not seen a clever verse or message in my visits to restaurants or gift shops; and I definitely do not feel creative as I write this.

However, the message that comes to mind is that we all need to continually do scholarly work. (I warned you that this message would not be all that exciting.) For County and Specialist Faculty, this is a part of the job description. For the rest of us, we are part of one of the largest and prestigious Universities in the world, so we need to think about advancing the content of our profession.

The biggest barriers that exist to doing applied research with resultant publications and presentations are time and resources. I hear that all the time. Other obstacles or hurdles to overcome include human subjects requirements, business office rules and regulations, personnel management guidelines and procedures, and a lack of understanding by our clients that this is a part of our jobs.

We can readily use these barriers as excuses for not being scholarly, and it does not take long for colleagues to chime in with agreement. But that does not negate the dimension that scholarly work is one of our mandates.

So, what can be done? I think the first thing to do is observe and visit with those who have had success in these ventures. We have many professionals who have completed legitimate research, published in journals, and presented at national or international conferences. If they can do it, why can't you?

I think if you were to look among those who have been successful in scholarly ventures you would be able to identify a few commonalities. First, they take things that they are already doing, and go that extra step to collect data or formalize and evaluation. They usually work in teams, so that the workload is distributed. They think about the scholarly angle with everything that they do, which includes being observant of innovative funding sources that are congruent with their plans.

I am not going to say it is easy – because it is not. It will take effort beyond the mediocre. Someone once told me that no one ever became among the best in their field by putting in only a 40 hour week. The professionals that I have come to know in Ohio State University Extension are by no means mediocre. I look forward to seeing more and better scholarly work.

Hmmm. I guess I did remember something from the past, as noted in the third sentence of the previous paragraph.

Thanks,

Tom

2013 Ohio Pullorum Testing Schools Announced

The Ohio Poultry Association and the Ohio Department of Agriculture are combining efforts to organize Pullorum-Fowl Typhoid pate agglutination tester training classes for testers whose certifications are due to expire or for those interested in becoming testers. People must be 18 years of age and older to become a certified tester. Information and a registration form can be found at:

<http://www.4hansci.osu.edu/poultry/index.php>. For questions please contact the Ohio Poultry Association at 614-882-6111.

Scarlet & Gray 4-H & FFA Judging Contest

The OSU Saddle & Sirloin Club is hosting a judging contest on April 13, for 4-H members 8-18 and FFA members. The contest will be held at the OSU Sheep Barns. Youth will be judging 8 classes, with seniors giving 4 sets of reasons and juniors giving 2 sets of reasons. The cost is \$7.50 per contestant. Contestants must be pre-registered by April 11. The flyer is posted at:

<http://www.4hansci.osu.edu/livestock/livestockEvents.php>. For additional information please contact Kayla Hinds at hinds.33@osu.edu

Web Conferencing Change to CarmenConnect

The CFAES contract with WebEx Meeting Center will end on April 28, 2013. Note that any WebEx meetings you have already scheduled or any reoccurring meetings scheduled after April 28th will not be accessible. You should now schedule your meetings with the new web conferencing program called CarmenConnect which uses Voice Over Internet Protocol (VOIP).

An account has been created for every OSU Extension employee and you can use this service at any time. You will schedule and manage your own meetings from your account. To use your CarmenConnect account, you can go to the portal at: <https://carmenconnect.osu.edu/> or you can go to the direct URL for any Connect room you are invited.

Ken Kulka will be delivering the first of four CarmenConnect orientation web conferences on April 4 at 10 AM. Please feel free to join for an overview and introduction to the many features in CarmenConnect. You can join this session at: <http://carmenconnect.osu.edu/trainosue/>. If you have further questions please contact Ken Kulka, kulka.1@osu.edu