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West Region Newsletter

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APRIL 2011

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OSU EXTENSION ON YOUTUBE

<http://www.youtube.com/user/OSUExtension>

Some interesting means of communication between Extension and the public is the use of the media, youtube.com. Currently the channel gives information concerning topics such as: Real Money Real World, Sanitizing the Kitchen, and Growing Ohio's Economy Endeavor etc.

2010 Ohio Corn Performance Trial-Initial Data Available

Initial data for the Ohio Corn Performance Trials are now available on line.

Yield information for early, mid and long season varieties from 8 sites are included. In addition, moisture, stalk lodging, emergence and test weight data are available. Experimental hybrids will be posted later along with other summary data. We hope you find this initial data useful and check back over the next few weeks for additional information and summary data that will be added to the data set. The address is <http://www.oardc.ohio-state.edu/corntrials/>

A&P Promotion Committee

The election result for the A&P Promotion Committee are in. The Committee membership and terms are as follows:

4-H Youth Development:

Nate Arnett – 1 year

Lisa McCutcheon – 3-years

ANR:

Eric Barrett – 1-year

Bruce Clevenger – 2-years

CD:

David Civittolo – 2-years

Treva Williams – 3-years

FCS:

Patricia Brinkman – 2-years

Marcia Jess – 3- years

Dan Remley – 1- year

Alternates for 2011-2012:

Chris Bruynis

Joyce Shriner

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Conference on State Budget Impacts April 21; Register by April 15

COLUMBUS, Ohio -- As the ongoing debate about Ohio's economy intensifies during the legislature's budgeting process, Ohio State University is hosting a conference focusing on the budget's impact on local government.

"Death by Deficit? Is the Future of Local Government Really All Bad?" is planned for Thursday, April 21, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sponsored by Ohio State's Department of Agricultural, Environmental, and Development Economics, the conference will be held at the university's Nationwide and Ohio Farm Bureau 4-H Center, 2201 Fred Taylor Drive.

"We are receiving many questions related to the impact of Ohio's budget woes on local government, infrastructure and related programs," said Stan Ernst, Ohio State University Extension outreach program leader for the department. "We thought this was a natural topic for our annual educational session about public policy and the economics behind it. We'll be looking at the economic challenges to local government as well as to state programs."

The program will interest local and state officials, organizations that work with or receive services from local government, and citizens interested in policy related to Ohio's economy.

"Whether it's jobs, Medicare, or other services, our speakers will discuss the overall economy and its trickle-down effects; local funding pressures and potential responses; and longer-run policy designed to improve the future of local economies," Ernst said.

Included on the program are Mark Partridge, Swank Chair in Rural-Urban Policy; Jon Honeck, director of Public Policy and Advocacy at The Center for Community Solutions; Rob Greenbaum, John Glenn School of Public Affairs; Ian Sheldon, Andersons Professor of International Trade; and Larry Long, executive director of the County Commissioners Association of Ohio.

Registration is \$60, with discounts available for OSU employees and students. Registration is available online at <http://www.regonline.com/osuaedeeconomicupdate2011>. The fee includes lunch and materials. Deadline is Friday, April 15.

For more information, e-mail econograms@osu.edu.

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Tech Wizard Grant Comes to Butler County

The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention teamed up with the National 4-H Council in Washington, D.C. to present a 4-H National Mentoring program grant to each state. The 4-H National Mentoring program features replications of three Programs of Distinction, recognized for implementing effective mentoring strategies with goals of reducing juvenile delinquency, youth unemployment, and school failure.

The three model programs are:

4-H Mentoring: Youth and Families with Promise (Utah State University)

Tech Wizards (Oregon State University)

4-H Living Interactive Family Education (University of Missouri)

Upon reading the descriptions and meeting with the OSU Extension's 4-H Youth Development program leader, four counties in Ohio (Adams, Butler, Hardin and Mahoning) were identified as candidates with programming history with Juvenile Justice that have been successful. A grant was submitted for the State of Ohio for these four counties. The title of the Ohio grant was "Ohio 4-H Mentoring Programs: Reducing Juvenile Delinquency." The grant was funded!

James Jordan, Extension Educator, is serving as the state Principle Investigator for the grant. Jordan is currently in Washington D.C. attending training about implementing the grant here. The grant had very specific criteria in order to qualify and the youth had to be from educational areas that were below standardized testing levels for science, technology, engineering and math.

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Pond Clinic Scheduled

Experts discuss common issues associated with pond ownership.



Having problems with your pond? Weeds taking over your pond? Fish dying? The place for answers is at the Pond Clinic hosted by the OSU Extension Williams County and Williams Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD).

The Pond Clinic will be Wednesday, April 20, 2011, at the Williams County Agricultural Services Meeting Room. A Hotdog Roast will be at 5:30 p.m., sponsored by the SWCD.

At 6:00 p.m. featured speakers include William Lynch, Program Specialist, Ohio State University Natural Resources and Jim Lopshire, OSU Extension Educator Paulding County. They will be speaking on: Coping with Aquatic Plants & Algae, Correctly Stocking Your Pond and Improving Pond Health with Aeration.

For reservations contact the SWCD at 419-636-9395 or OSU Extension Office at 419-636-5608.

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Tech Wizard Grant Comes to Butler County Cont'd

Butler County Extension will be participating in the Tech Wizards program. The goals for participants of the Tech Wizards after-school or Juvenile Detention program include: fostering a deeper understanding and appreciation for STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math); increasing skills in STEM areas; gaining an appreciation for community service; and strengthening family relations. The three counties involved in the Tech Wizards part of the grant are Adams, Butler and Hardin. At least 20 participants will be included in each of the three counties. Students selected consistently achieve lower than average state scores in science and math on standardized tests. Mahoning County will participate in the Youth and Families with Promise part. The Tech Wizards grant will include: teaching, learning, and participation by youth grades 3 through 12. The grant was written so the participants will participate in these parts of the STEM:

Science – Global Information Systems (GIS) mapping the youth will use modern technologies and digital information to digitize data creation methods that are more accurate than hard copies of maps. Youth using the GIS data will represent real objects (i.e., roads, land use, elevation, trees, waterways, etc.) with digital determining the mix.

Technology – Clickers responses program where the participants will respond to questions presented to them and answer using a clicker instrument. Data will be calculated and displayed within minutes/seconds. The data collected using clicker technology is spontaneous and quantitative.

Engineering – Robot kits: with the guidance of mentors, participants will increase science and engineering skills by designing, creating, building, and evaluating a model robot. Working together as teams will enhance teamwork and collaboration skills.

Math – Calculating findings from the above 3 areas. The goal of increasing math skills will be by addressed by requiring each team that builds a rocket to calculate the distance the robot traveled following a track by calculating progress.

Butler County has a rich resource in Miami University students and adults that have a tenured background in the areas of Science, Technology, Engineering and Math. The opportunities are endless with interested adults or college students helping Butler County youth with STEM learning and passing the standardized testing required before graduation.

This program is seeking interested individuals or groups that would like to serve as a mentor for this program. The program will last for one year and mentors will have to volunteer to assist with the program for the whole year. Interested individuals or groups are asked to call Dr. Jordan at (513) 785-6650. OSU Extension does require all volunteers that work with youth go through a fingerprinting background check. The ratio of mentors to youth cannot exceed 1 to 4 as detailed by the grant.

News release provided by James L. Jordan, PhD, Ohio State University Extension