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Ohio Association of Extension Professionals

Message From the President

Greetings Extension Educators,

When the economy is in a downslide it can be difficult to remain positive. Our organization has certainly been affected by this economic downturn, leaving us to face challenges such as reduced county funding. State budget reductions have necessitated layoffs and a restructuring plan which will require each of us to redesign how we do our work. But remaining positive is in fact, the only choice we have if we are to remain a viable organization in the future.

Each of us will be challenged in the coming days and months to figure out how best to do our important work with fewer resources and a new organizational structure. Some of us will even be working in new locations. We must commit ourselves to finding the opportunities which these changes present. At the same time we must also help our clientele and stakeholders understand the necessity of these changes, and the new opportunities which lie ahead.

Your OAEF Board is committed to helping our members during this time of transition. We have facilitated communication between Extension Administration and our members, and we will continue to seek ways to increase communication. Board members are also in touch with leaders of Extension professional associations in other states which have adopted regional staffing models, in order to learn how these changes might affect our members and our association. The Board is also evaluating ways in which we can support members whose positions have been eliminated.

If our profession and our organization are to survive and flourish in the future, we as educators, specialists, and staff members must embrace change with a positive outlook. We've helped our clientele do just that for nearly 100 years, and now it's time to put that expertise to good use as we accept the challenges of restructuring our organization and keeping Extension a positive force in Ohio.

Mike Hogan
OAEF President

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POLICY COMMITTEE REPORT

Several members of the Policy Committee were able to meet face-to-face on March 16 at Ag Admin and had a very productive meeting. Co-Chair Troy Cooper and Past-Chair Kathy Lechman helped develop the agenda and plan moving forward. I thank Kathy and Troy for their support and leadership.

I'll briefly summarize our March 16 Policy Committee meeting. A discussion was held on revisions and updates to the OAEP By-Laws and Constitution. Kathy had done a tremendous amount of work last year and in to this year updating the By-Laws and Constitution. The Policy Committee reviewed the updated By-Laws and Constitution, and read through both clarifying and reviewing each Article and Section. Since Kathy had done most of the updating already, the process went smoothly with unanimous consent governing our suggested modifications. The committee felt strongly that each Committee in Article IV, with exception of Executive Committee and Nominating Committee, be given their description in the By-Laws and Handbook for review and suggest changes to the Policy Committee. Kathy, Troy and I will be coordinating with the other Committee Chairs to advance this plan in the next three months. We realize that our changes will require full OAEP Board approval.

The Policy Committee was asked by the Board to have a discussion on **a 1st or 2nd V.P. attending a national conference (JCEP and PILD) and develop a process to submit a report to be printed in the OAEP newsletter.** The Policy Committee indicated that **this** was outside the duties of the Policy Committee, and respectfully asks the Board to examine this issue outside of Policy Committee.

Our action items coming out our March 16 meeting are as follows:

1. Past-Chair Kathy will get an electronic version of the Guidelines to Andy
2. Andy will disseminate to OEAP Committee Chairs their corresponding section of the By-Laws and Guidelines for review; comments to be returned from those Chairs to Andy by May 15
3. Policy Committee will meet via Webex on June 8, 10 AM

Respectfully Submitted:

Chair, Andy Kleinshmidt

Hold the Date

Annual Conference December 16-17, 2009

North-Central Extension Industry Soil Fertility Conference

In November the 2008 North-Central Extension Industry Soil Fertility Conference in Des Moines, Iowa provided an opportunity for Soil Fertility researchers and agribusiness professionals from the Midwest to share research based information, industry trends, and agribusiness research needs.

This conference opened with a presentation addressing crop production and bio-fuel generation correlation.

Dr. Otto Doering, agricultural economist at Purdue University shared that corn price is directly related to the price of oil and ethanol. Compared to just four to six years ago, corn price was a function of the number of cattle on feed. Approximately one-third of corn crop (2008) will go to ethanol production. That should leave ample supply of corn for food and feed. As of Wednesday, November 12th crude oil was sold for \$59.00/barrel and corn was at \$3.60/bushel. This oil price could support a corn price of \$4.00/bushel at maximum. Therefore, should oil price continue to decline, so will corn price. The trend reflects that soybean price follows the corn price.

Research continues to make slow progress in cellulosic bio-fuel. There is not a conversion process available. Cellulosic materials could include corn stoves, switch grass, and other high-fiber products. All these products are bulky and have low feed tock value. Therefore, large number of acres will be needed for this energy service. Probably has a better fit in Southeastern United States.

The fertilizer market has experienced unprecedented changes unlike any previous situations. Fertilizer has become a worldwide commodity instead of just United States requirements. China and India will have larger influence on the market in near future. The United States imports potash and approximately 55% of nitrogen. Phosphate is exported. Grain market began its upward movement in November 2006 and the fertilizer market followed.

As a means of reducing adverse impact on environment with crop production, research continues to be conducted with cover crops. Cover crops provide ground cover through winter months that reduce potential for erosion and add carbon to soil. The challenge continues managing the cover crop in spring with no-till cropping program.

Research specialists from industry and universities presented reports of some of their research projects pertaining to soil fertility and plant nutrition.

A research report from the University of Minnesota suggested that farmers monitor nitrogen rates when applied as a starter, especially placed in furrow to minimize stand reduction. Researchers at university of Wisconsin conducted a unique project to determine effects of timing weed control applications to nitrogen rates on corn yield. Delaying weed control until weeds were 4 inches and 12 inches tall resulted in additional nitrogen fertilizer costs of \$19.84/acre and \$54.66/acre, respectively.

A new product, Nutrisphere-N was evaluated for its benefits as a soil nitrification and urease inhibitor at North Dakota State University. The claim that Nutrisphere-N acts as an inhibitor of urease and nitrification could not be confirmed.

A greater presence of "on-farm" research was encouraged. The universities of Nebraska, Missouri, and Kansas State presented details of successful procedures and methods. Some advantages stressed were:

- Answer questions that cannot be answered in small plots on a research station
- Increase information base
- Address farmer questions

Several other project reports presented included topics "Nitrogen Deficiency", "Urea Use Options", "Development and management of Nutrient use Efficient Crops", "Charcoal Addition to Soil enhance Soil Fertility", and "Establishing Organic Research Programs".

Regional conferences such as the North-Central Extension Industry Soil Fertility Conference focus on practices and topics that pertain to the region. This conference offered ample time to interact one-on-one with speakers and other professionals from universities and industries from the Midwest.

Submitted by:

Wesley Haun
Extension Educator, Logan County
Agriculture, Natural Resources, 4-H Youth Development

Public Relations Committee

The Public Relations Committee met on Monday, March 16 before the OAEP Board meeting in Columbus. As of March 16, Connie Goble became the Chair for the committee with Gwen Wolford as the Co-Chair. Items that were discussed at the meeting include:

- a. A table top display has been purchased for use when attending functions to promote OAEP and Extension
- b. County Commissioners Day is August 19-20 in Medina County, Connie will contact Dave Civatola as to what OAEP can do to assist with the event.
- c. Winter County Commissioners meeting December 2009. Possibilities of a continuous power point running to promote and display what Extension does.
Set-up the display board
Each county receive a jump drive with an small excerpt of what Extension is and does.
Other visitors to the table have a magnet or pen with OAEP and Extension logo or just a brochure

These items will be further discussed with Public Committee on the May 11 Webex call. If any members have other ideas or suggestions, please email Connie at goble.6@osu.edu.

Respectfully submitted by:
Connie Goble, Chair

NACAA Update

AgNR/Horticulture Educators have been busy this past month preparing applications for awards and presentations for the AM/PIC in Portland, OR this September 20 -24. There were 26 communication award applications completed by 10 educators throughout the state. The state winners are as follows:

Category 1, Radio: Alan Sundermeier
Category 2, Published Photo or Feature Story: Alan Sundermeier
Category 3, Computer Generated Presentation: Amy Stone
Category 4, Direct Mail Piece: Gary Gao
Category 5, Personal Column: Amy Stone
Category 6, Feature Story: Alan Sundermeier
Category 7, Individual Newsletter: David Marrison
Category 8, Team Newsletter: Chris Bruynis
Category 9, Video Presentation: No Entries
Category 10, Fact Sheet: Chris Zoller
Category 11, Publication: Jim Jasinski
Category 12, Web Site: David Marrison
Category 13, Learning Module/Notebook: Alan Sundermeier
Category 14, Bound Book: Gary Gao

We also have two state winners in the **Search for Excellence** competition in:

Landscape Horticulture: Gary Gao.

Young, Beginning, or Small Farmers/Ranchers: David Marrison, Erik Draper, Les Ober, Steve Hudkins.

Congratulations and good luck in the regional competition!

There were also several proposals submitted by OSU Extension for presentations and posters. We look forward to seeing a strong Ohio representation in Portland!

Respectfully Submitted:

Julia Nolan Woodruff, 1st VP Agriculture and Natural Resources

Alan Sundermeier, 2nd VP Agriculture and Natural Resources



COMMITTEES: WHERE CAN YOU HELP?

JILL STECHSCHULTE
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**All OAEP Committee
Chairs are asked to
submit 1 article per
newsletter for their
committee update to the
membership.**

**Articles are due to
Stechschulte.23@osu.edu
by:**

June 5, 2009

November 6, 2009

Personnel Committee - monitor and report on salary and benefits information; faculty and extension tenure systems updates and support staff issues.

Policy Committee - monitor and update constitution and by-laws issues as deemed necessary by executive committee.

Program Committee - create opportunities for the free flow of programming ideas between members of the association; encourage feedback to administrators on statewide programming issues.

Professional Improvement Committee - support opportunities for membership's professional improvement thorough in-service activities; support the continuation of support dollars to agents.

Recognition Committee - implementing and facilitate the selection process for the state personnel service awards; distinguished service awards; achievement awards and tenure awards.

Public Relations Committee - increase the visibility and image of The Ohio State University Extension and the Ohio Extension Agents Association; create awareness for new agents of the objectives, work and accomplishments of OAEP; to act as a liaison between OAEP and Ohio county commissioners.

OAEP Newsletter- support and facilitate the purpose of OAEP through effective communication; keep OAEP and emeriti informed of OAEP committee and board actions; to strengthen communication between OEAA and Extension administration; publish an OAEP News for the membership.

If you would like to help out on a committee please contact President Mike Hogan at hogan.1@osu.edu.

First Vice Presidents

ANR	Julia Woodruff	Ashland County	woodruff.94@cfaes.osu.edu
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4-H	Jo Williams	Scioto County	williams.2213@cfaes.osu.edu
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