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The Ohio State University
South Centers include:

- Piketon Research & Extension Center
- OSUE South District
- Enterprise Center
- OSU Learning Center South
- Small Business Development Center
- Ohio Cooperative Development Center
- Ohio Family and Children First
- Manufacturing Small Business Development Center
- Business Incubator & Training Center

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Visit our Website at: <http://southcenters.osu.edu>



From **Berry Research** to **Literacy Based Activity Training**

This edition of OSU South Centers Connection is an indicator of the variety of research and extension programming underway in our region. From Shrimp and strawberry production to surveys of the workforce to the 4-H Carteens program, the South Centers staff are focused on providing economic alternatives as well as improving the general well being of southern Ohio residents of all ages. We hope you enjoy these articles and as always, if we can share more details about any aspect of our programs with you, do not hesitate to call us, visit our website or personally visit our Piketon, Jackson or any of the county Extension offices.

Donald McFeeters, Director and Thomas Worley, Coordinator of Operations



Hold the cocktail sauce...!

By Laura Tiu, Aquaculture Specialist

Researchers and Extension professionals from the OSU South Centers collaborated on a project this summer to evaluate the potential of freshwater shrimp as a sustainable cash crop for Southern Ohio farmers. With funding from an OSU Sea Grant, OSU Extension, and the Ohio Agricultural Research and Development Center (OARDC), a shrimp team was organized consisting of Aquaculture specialists, District Extension specialists and County Agents.

The project was set-up as an on-farm demonstration with nine ponds in Southern Ohio being stocked with freshwater shrimp. The shrimp, purchased from a shrimp hatchery in Kentucky, were stocked into ponds around

June 15th and after a 100-day growth period, harvested in late September.

Results varied with production ranging from 21-1100 pounds of shrimp per acre.

Weights of individual shrimp averaged 30 grams or 15 shrimp per pound. Researchers are in the process of analyzing the production data and when completed, the results will be made available on the OSU South Centers website.

The shrimp from one of the first ponds harvested were served at the South Centers Open House in early September and the general consensus was that they were...

shrimply fabulous!

Carteens Video Conference

By Becky Cropper, Brown County 4-H Youth Development Agent



A Brown County Carteen prepares to work alongside Fayetteville Police and Ohio State Patrol officers as a community service activity.

Participants in 4-H Carteens conduct programs for first time juvenile traffic offenders. In nine southern Ohio counties (Adams, Athens, Brown, Clinton, Lawrence, Pickaway, Ross, Scioto and Pike), teens from 14-18 are facilitating traffic safety programs for their peers. The teens collaborate with the Juvenile Court System and the Ohio Highway Patrol .

On October 18th a Video Conference was held with the Ohio Judicial Judges to inform them about the impact of the program and how 44 Ohio Counties across Ohio are affecting teen driver habits. The conference featured Judge Ron Dvoracheck, Juvenile Court Judge in Brown County, who was instrumental in the initial partnership to get 4-H Carteens underway. Data from 4-H Carteen programs indicates that teens are helping their peers realize the importance of safe driving practices. The Video Conference showcased the program in addition to informing other judges across the state about the procedures needed for implementation.

Child Care Provider Training

By Treva Williams,
Scioto County FCS/CD Extension Agent

Ohio State University Extension and the Scioto County Department of Job and Family Services have successfully partnered to conduct numerous training sessions for Type B family child care providers. It was previously identified that such training was needed to encourage providers to include more planned literacy based programming in their daily activities with children in their care.

Utilizing the expertise of WOSU public television educators and the Portsmouth City Library, approximately 25 providers attended at least one of five classes offered. As a result, 17 of the providers have indicated they are now providing at least one literacy based activity each day, using many of the resource materials provided through the training.

This partnership has also resulted in 63 of the 70 Type B Scioto County family child care providers having now received the 30 additional hours of training necessary to increase their rate of pay to the maximum level.



Child care providers from Scioto County enjoy a training session including some very creative hat making.



South Centers Research on Adapting Plasticulture Strawberry Methods

Source: Brad Bergefurd

Research at the Ohio State University South Centers is looking to improve Ohio's strawberry production through new plasticulture methods. Ohio State researchers are taking notes on North Carolina's plasticulture strawberries, which consistently produce higher yields and berries earlier in the season.

Plasticulture strawberries are planted in September as compared to the traditional March-to-May planting schedule followed by matted row growers, Bergefurd

said. However, Ohio State researchers are still trying to find the "magical planting date" for plasticulture plants in September.

The "magical date" is important for planting because depending on the date planted, some plants set runners instead of budding, which results in bushy plants and little produce, Bergefurd said. Ohio's appropriate date for planting differs from North Carolina because of the differences in climate.

Researchers also compared varieties to find the most suitable for Ohio's climate, Bergefurd said. Chandler—a desirable California variety—was among

those tested because it does not go dormant like most Ohio vari-

eties, but grows into the winter months.

"Chandlers made it last winter, but that was not the best winter to put them to the test," Bergefurd said. "By doing different variety trials with western and eastern varieties, we hope to get good variety recommendations for interested farmers."

Along with planting dates and varieties, different types of floating row covers were tested to find the best protection from frost, freezing and winter conditions. The covers, which are made out of a spun-bounded, plastic-type fiber, differ in weight and thickness, affecting the amount of sunlight received by the plants, Bergefurd said. Straw also was tested but did not fare well with this winter's warm weather

Appalachian Workforce Marketing Initiative grant

By Dave Boulay,
Management Specialist

The OSU South Centers has received an Appalachian Workforce Marketing Initiative grant from the Governor's Office of Appalachia. Through this grant funding, and in a collaborative effort with the Scioto County Economic Development Office and the Southern Ohio Diversification Initiative (SODI), a pilot process will be developed to profile workforce attributes not easily quantifiable and of significant value to community leaders, existing businesses,

and new business prospects.

The goal of this pilot project, identified as the Workforce Retention Program, is to develop a repeatable process useable for any community or organization to profile their workforce. The uniqueness of this approach, surveying the workforce, will be the cornerstone for applied research narrating the region's workforce attributes. This research is an important component of marketing the Appalachian workforce to new and existing businesses since this information will serve as primary data to be used in con-

junction with readily available labor market data.

The long-term goal for the project will be to utilize this process framework beyond the grant as a low-cost service to communities and organizations. Additionally, information gathered in community projects will be aggregated for an on-going characterization of the region's workforce.

To learn more about this project, contact David Boulay at boulay.1@osu.edu.

Our Mission

We enhance southern Ohio by assisting people with informed decision-making through responsive research, education, entrepreneurial application and collaborative partnerships. We are a leading, respected contributor to the land grant mission of The Ohio State University.

Our Vision

We create an environment where our research based educational resources unite to inspire confident decision-making, by:

- ◆ Fostering objectivity in research and programming
- ◆ Interacting with the public and responding respectfully to their needs and opportunities
- ◆ Utilizing a holistic approach to problem solving and program delivery to strengthen youth, individuals, families and communities
- ◆ Facilitating technology advancement
- ◆ Demonstrating and developing leadership
- ◆ Educating volunteers for community service
- ◆ Helping people achieve excellence

South Centers Named Lead Center for Small Business Development

The Ohio Department of Development and the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) recently named the OSU South Centers a lead center serving 10 southern Ohio counties. The Ohio Small Business Development Center (SBDC) at the Ohio State University (OSU) South Centers assists both new and existing business owners with consulting and training. During Oct. 1, 2001-September 30, 2002, the SBDC and Manufacturing SBDC invested more than 4,270 consulting hours with 925 companies and sponsored 53 business training events for 497 participants. As a result, regional economic impacts exceeded \$26 million.

A team of Certified Business Analysts help existing businesses develop and retain a competitive advantage in the ever-changing global economy, and help entrepreneurs realize their dream of business ownership. To schedule an appointment with a Certified Business Advisor or attend an upcoming business training event, contact the Ohio SBDC at the OSU South Centers, Bill Smeltzer, Regional Coordinator, 800-860-7232 or 740-289-3727; smeltzer.17@osu.edu; 1864 Shyville Road, Piketon, OH 45661; Fax: 740-289-4591; <http://sbdc.osu.edu>