



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

## South Centers

# C o n n e c t i o n

**Winter 2003**  
**Volume 1, No. 3**

The Ohio State University South Centers include:

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

Contact us at:

OSU South Centers at Piketon  
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—Or—

OSU South Centers at Jackson  
17 Standpipe Road  
Jackson, OH 45640  
Phone: 740-286-2177

—Or—

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



## Charting our **Course** through **Community Assessments**

Throughout the past year, the OSU South Centers and its 16 counties have been involved in assessing the communities we serve. The purpose of this three-phase assessment is to help Extension better know our communities; to target programming initiatives; to enhance/build collaborations and partnerships; and to gather baseline information to use and share with local agencies, advisory committees, government, and businesses.

Initially, each county researched and prepared an 8-10 page summary document based on facts and figures from secondary sources. A resident survey comprised the second phase with a sample size of 400 per county; 1490 usable surveys were returned. Survey summaries with findings and implications are now being prepared for each county and throughout the district. Early in 2003, a district-wide media event

will be held to present the regional perspective from the assessment. Each county will subsequently host a community meeting to share the snapshot and survey summary and hold focused discussion groups to identify strategies to approach the challenges and opportunities identified through the community assessment.

Copies of the snapshot and survey summaries will be made available. District Community Development Specialist, Deanna Tribe, and District Director, Don McFeeters, co-chaired this effort. Other Community Assessment Committee members include District Natural Resources Specialist, David Apsley; Pike County ANR-CD Agent, Jeff Fisher; Regional Family and Children First Coordinator, Sherry Ward; and Coordinator of Operations, Tom Worley. Further information can be obtained from any of the committee members.

### SBIR Outreach Center

The Manufacturing Small Business Development Center at Piketon serves as a regional outreach center for the Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) Program. Eleven federal agencies, including the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Departments of Defense, Energy and NASA, provide grants to small businesses to conduct research and development in support of federal agency missions. SBIR programs fund research and development efforts of a high-risk nature that have significant potential to be commercialized within a year or two.

The objectives of the program are to, 1) stimulate technological innovation; 2) engage small businesses in meeting federal R&D needs; 3) encourage participation of disadvantaged and minority persons in technological innovation; and 4) increase private sector commercialization derived from federal R&D. If you are interested in learning more about the SBIR Program, contact David Boulay at (740) 289-2071 or [boulay.1@osu.edu](mailto:boulay.1@osu.edu).

# Berry Symposium Points the Way Forward



A Berry Symposium was held in November at the University Plaza Hotel and Conference Center in Columbus, Ohio. The symposium was jointly organized by the OSU College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences and the OSU School of Public Health. The goal of the symposium was to highlight the berry research being done throughout the United States and to form additional collaborations among researchers. Another focus of the symposium was to consider the feasibility of developing a consortium to move the berry industry forward in the United States.

Research was shared on breeding of primocane blackberry and black raspberry varieties. With a primocane berry, the pruning consists of simply mow-

ing the berries down every winter, therefore, reducing labor cost by at least half. Research on linkages between diet and incidence of cancer are showing reductions of colon and esophageal cancer(s) in animals up to 80%. Human clinical trials are scheduled to start in the near future to see if these findings can be duplicated in humans. The opportunity exists for many partnerships and collaborations to form that will help current and future berry growers to better market their product and demand a premium price.

The symposium featured 15 keynote speakers on four general areas of research and extension. Topics included: Berry Production and Plant Breeding; Berry Composition; Health Effects of Berries; and Berry Marketing and Product Development. Speakers represented 6 universities currently working on berry research, either on the production side or on the health and cancer prevention sides. Other speakers represented were USDA divisions, the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, Ocean Spray and Berry commissions. Attendees represented 14 states and included researchers, extension personnel, university staff and faculty and numerous berry growers from throughout the Midwest. For additional information, contact Sandy Kuhn at 740-289-2071 or [kuhn.37@osu.edu](mailto:kuhn.37@osu.edu).

## Southern Ohio Forest Welcome Wagon Initiative

The Southern Ohio Forest Welcome Wagon Committee's goal is to provide new landowners with unbiased information about woodland management options to help them to make informed decisions. The committee has representatives from OSU South Centers, Rural Action, Ohio University, the Southeast Ohio Woodland Interest Group, and a retired Ohio Department of Natural Resources botanist.

In a recent pilot effort, approximately 400 new woodland owners in Athens, Jackson, and Washington Counties received a post card inviting them to pick up a free "Landowner Resource Packet." The packet contains a variety of information that will assist them in making



informed management decisions. Items in the packet included: a guide to local assistance providers, information on Ohio Woodland Stewards, a variety of Rural Action publications on non-timber forest products, several OSU Extension fact sheets and the new tree identification bulletin, an ODNR Division of Wildlife publication list, information about woodland interest groups, and valuable coupons. For more information or to get involved with the Welcome Wagon effort, please contact Dave Apsley, Ohio State University South Centers at (740) 286-2177 ([apsley.1@osu.edu](mailto:apsley.1@osu.edu)) or Chip Carroll, Rural Action Sustainable Forestry at (740) 742-4002 ([chip@ruralaction.org](http://chip@ruralaction.org)).

## Business Incubator and Training Facility



OSU South Centers in collaboration with the Southern Ohio Diversification Initiative is moving forward with building design and construction of a new facility to house start up businesses and a training center. The facility design team's goal is to provide an inviting and functional space for entrepreneurs to endeavor into the business world. Design and construction diagrams are scheduled for completion early this year. Ground breaking for construction should occur this summer with completion expected a year later.

Although the physical facility will not be available for another 18 to 20 months, The Ohio State University South Centers is moving forward by providing business incubation services with walls. Incubation without walls is used by business incubators that do not physically house tenants because of zoning or space limitations. Incubator services with the exception of leased space will become available within the first quarter of 2003. For more information, please contact Steve Shepherd at (740) 289-2071 or [shepherd.156@osu.edu](mailto:shepherd.156@osu.edu).

## Life Planning: It Begins with Communication

As our society ages and people live longer lives, aging and end-of-life issues are becoming more important to families. Many families don't take time to consider the "what if's" that may face them down the road. The South Centers Family and Consumer Sciences program recently hosted a "Train the Trainer" video-conference on the topic of life planning. The conference was sponsored by the Senior Series Team, a partnership of Ohio State University Extension and the Ohio Department of Aging.

Conference topics included the implications of longevity on the family system, recognizing the realities of what happens when life planning isn't done, identifying tools to introduce life planning discussions within the family and learning about resources available to families in life planning discussions. Over 50 professionals from Aging organizations, health care facilities, and OSU Extension participated in the conference held at the South Centers Learning Center in Piketon and the Center for Learning Excellence in Columbus.

Participants will use the information and training materials from the conference and conduct similar programs in their counties. For additional information, contact Cindy S. Oliveri, District Specialist FCS, at 740-286-2177 or email [oliveri.1@osu.edu](mailto:oliveri.1@osu.edu).

## Salsa Gardening for Hands On Learning



Learning about gardening became a reality for some of the special needs school population of Pike County through joint efforts of Ohio State University Extension, South Centers, and facilities at Piketon.

The Pike County Extension Office received a grant from the Foundation Board to provide hands-on learning through a "Gardening with Disabilities" program. Forty disabled youth, along with 20 caring adults, participated in growing a salsa garden. The youth planted tomatoes, green peppers, onions, cilantro, and tomatillos. Throughout the spring, the youth participated in different activities that dealt with some form of gardening. Each child was able to plant and take home their own window box along with other crafts and gardening items.

Throughout the summer months, the South Centers staff along with a 4-H gardening volunteer, Debbie Eller, helped to take care of the garden. After school began in the fall, the youth and adults participated in a salsa making party. The youth cleaned, cut the vegetables, and prepared the salsa. Afterwards, a tasting party was held. Each child was given a container of the salsa to share with their families. This gardening experience provided special needs youth a way of learning to become self-sufficient.

For more information, contact Connie L. Goble, 4-H Youth Development Extension Agent, Pike County at 740-947-2121 or [goble.6@osu.edu](mailto:goble.6@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

## OSU Learning Center South

Several developments at the OSU Learning Center South have taken off rather quickly since early June of this year. A couple of those items include becoming a testing site center for Educational Testing Service (ETS) for the PRAXIS II test, an examination for teacher licensure in Ohio and forming partnership with the Ohio Department of Education for PRAXIS III Assessor Training and Evaluation. PRAXIS III is an intensive training for master teachers who become mentors for entry year teachers who must meet district policy and state department requirements for professional licensure. Once they complete PRAXIS III, they can then submit work assessed with their mentor teacher and apply for the five-year professional license to teach in Ohio. This opportunity provides another piece of the overall vision of building quality professional development in our school systems in the Appalachian Region. It also complements Extension's partnership with the College of Education through Outreach and Engagement.



All educational programs conducted by Ohio State University are available to clientele on a nondiscriminatory basis without regard to race, color, creed, religion, sexual orientation, national origin, gender, age, disability or Vietnam-era veteran status.