

# OSU Extension Center at Lima Update!

September 2005 Issue

*An entrepreneurial team of professionals that improves the quality of life in Ohio by developing educational programming, conducting applied research, and providing services to solve societal problems and create new opportunities for Ohioans.*

## Welcome

This is a continuing series of Updates about happenings around the Extension Center at Lima (ECL). Past Updates can be found [here](#). The Updates have multiple authors, so please feel free to contact any ECL professional for more information or for ways that you might participate. Feedback (and affirmation!) are always appreciated and can be directed to [Jerry Thomas](#) or any ECL professional.

## Applied Research Initiative

Plans are progressing for the Applied Research Initiative, and Extension Professionals from all program areas are encouraged to participate! This program falls under the ECL Extension Tools Initiative.

Beginning October 6, 2005, a quarterly in-service program will begin to enhance, strengthen and develop our abilities to document the impact of the programs we're currently conducting! So save the date – registration information will follow.

Everyone who finishes the 7-session initiative will finish the program with a publishable or nationally presentable paper completed.

- Everyone will get a mentor to help with the process of completing their paper
- Participants will be eligible for up to a \$200 stipend from Extension Administration to help support their study.

Topics to be address include:

- Research Design and Methods (both quantitative and qualitative)
- Data Collection and Management (including instrument selection and design, sampling, etc.)
- Data Analysis
- Writing and Publishing (including how to use library data bases, APA style)
- Human Subjects Review process and others.

So, place October 6 on your calendar. Registration information will follow soon. Please contact Cindy Torppa at 419-422-6106 or [torppa.1@osu.edu](mailto:torppa.1@osu.edu) for more information.

## **Risk Management Education**

By: Donald J. Breece  
Farm Management Specialist

In July, I represented Ohio Extension at the "Building for Success" workshop sponsored by the North Central Risk Management Education Center. The workshop purposes were to share experiences in risk management education, assess future needs and to obtain information about grant funding 2005-2006. I learned that two proposals from Ohio were granted funding in 2005. One was "Annie's Project Ohio" to educate farm women with new ways to improve their business and to balance family and community needs by the American Small Business Association. The Ohio Farm Bureau was also funded to conduct ten Agricultural Marketing and Financial Seminars, targeting 500 Ohio producers. In 2004, Cam Thraen, AEDE, had a Milk Marketing Risk Management project.

This fall an announcement about grant proposals will come out for 2006, and I hope to team with some Extension Educators and others interested in developing risk management education programs. Broad areas covered by these grants include: Environmental, Financial, Human Resource, Legal, Marketing and Technology. A focus group study with farmers from the NC Region revealed many areas of particular need in risk management education. This study also discovered that even though the internet is available, many farms only have dial-up and struggle with downloading information. Direct mail is the most desired delivery method, but it is best to include the wife's name on the mailing label. Producers still want hands-on workshops and one-on-one contact (no surprise here, farm management education has always been a "one-on-one business").

Some specific areas that we could partner on for a grant may include: Retirement Planning and Wealth Accumulation for Farmers; Developing a series of Transition Planning workshops; or a program to assist immigrant farmers to be successful financially and otherwise with new farm businesses. Let me know at mail to: [breece.2@osu.edu](mailto:breece.2@osu.edu) if you have thoughts about these or other ideas. Check out the NC Risk Management Education Center web site for more information at: <http://www.farmdoc.uiuc.edu/ncrisk/>.

## **Linkage With OSU Lima Strategy Store**

As part of the ECL's upcoming move to the campus at OSU Lima, the ECL will be linking with the Strategy Store. The Strategy Store is partially funded by OSU Extension as an Enterprise Center and provides applied research solutions to community issues. Tanja Nihiser ([nihiser.8@osu.edu](mailto:nihiser.8@osu.edu)), Program Coordinator at the Strategy Store, will report to the ECL and work as a team member and collaborator with ECL and other Extension Professionals. The Strategy Store will still continue to offer services as well. Check out the Strategy Store website at [http://www.lima.ohio-state.edu/outreach/strat\\_store.html](http://www.lima.ohio-state.edu/outreach/strat_store.html). Contact [Jerry](#) or [Tanja](#), if any of the sample services are of interest to any communities or organizations you work with.

### **ECL has Zoomerang**

The ECL has purchased Zoomerang (an online survey program) and has begun to use it in a number of projects. If you have a survey research idea and need a partner, contact an ECL team member.

### **Regional Economic Development Survey**

The ECL contracted with the Northwest Ohio Regional Economic Development Association (an 11 county, non-profit association of private and public entities that focus on community economic development) to conduct an online census of its membership on current and future needs as an organization and region. The Center chose this as pilot project to test how fast we could develop a professional product using the University research guidelines. The entire process – initial meetings, survey design, instrument testing, IRB approval, the survey posting, analyzing data, and presenting the findings and implications to the NORED board were accomplished in two months. Team members included Jerry Thomas, Joe Lucente, Cindy Torppa, and Carolyn Hall. Contact [Jerry Thomas](#) for more information or to conduct similar projects.

### **Issues of Parenthood Team**

The Issues of Parenthood Team met in Union County on July 22. Team members learned about important research findings in parental competence and how they influenced the design of parent education programs. We also worked on our common evaluation tool, and spent some time networking, catching-up, and discussing future in-service opportunities. Watch for dates for upcoming in-services. And check out our Issues of Parenthood web site, soon you'll be able to link directly to it from the Lima Center's webpage, but for now, you can find it at <http://hec.osu.edu/famlife/iop/>. Contact [Cindy Torppa](#) for more details

### **Weblog on Extension Trends**

To keep up on current trends, issues, and tools for Extension Professionals check on the blog maintained by Jerry Thomas at <http://extensiontrends.ag.ohio-state.edu/>