



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

## South Centers

# C o n n e c t i o n

Summer 2002

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The Ohio State University  
South Centers include:

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

Contact us at:

OSU South Centers at Piketon  
1864 Shyville Road  
Piketon, OH 45661  
740-289-2071, 1-800-860-7232  
or 1-800-297-2072

Or:

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

Or:

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



## Welcome to the first issue of OSU South Centers Connection.

The Connection and the new name South Centers are a result of further integration of the programs of research and extension at our Piketon and Jackson locations and the 16 county Extension offices in the South District of OSU Extension. We expect the new integrated Centers structure to better serve you with more comprehensive programs that are relevant and timely to our region. We're excited about communicating with you via the Connection but we're even more interested in hearing back from you. We invite your comments, questions and request for further information about any aspect of the newsletter or any of our program areas. Please feel free to stop by any of our offices or contact us personally at 800-297-2072. We look forward to hearing from you.

Don McFeeters, Director and Thomas Worley, Coordinator of Operations.



## Working With Wood Adding Value to Low Grade Appalachian Hardwoods

by Sara J. Gurney and Deanna L. Tribe

Appalachia Ohio is known for the beauty and uniqueness of its hardwood lumber, which has long served as the backbone of the region's natural resource based economy. As trees are converted into logs and then lumber, much of the tree ends up as short or low-grade logs and boards. Traditionally, markets for this material has been limited and of low value.

The "Working with Wood" project, funded by the Appalachian Regional Commission, concentrated on consumer preference research, market testing, product identity, manufacturing and educational programming for value-added opportunities. The goal of this project was to demonstrate not only the economical feasibility of using low-grade hardwoods to product quality

craft and gift items from wood, but also how to market these items to bolster the region's identity and image. Tourism businesses and organizations can benefit by providing visitors with regionally made products or promotional items as special, authentic souvenirs of their visit.

As a result of this project, 62 people attended workshops, a training manual was produced, approximately \$1500 in sales were generated in test markets, 3 new businesses were started and 20 businesses were enhanced. Additional workshops are currently being planned for 2002. Gary Haynes, a

# FAMILY Nutrition Program

by Cindy Oliveri

Ohio State University Extension's Family Nutrition Program (FNP) is funded by the Midwest Region Food and Nutrition Service, and the United States Department of Agriculture. FNP is a partnership between the Ohio Department of Job & Family Services and Ohio State University Extension in an effort to improve the nutrition of families and individuals who are food stamp program participants or eligible nonparticipants.

Thirteen of the sixteen counties in the South District currently have FNP. Program Assistants and Family and Consumer Sciences Agents in each county work with local agencies to conduct programs for their clientele on topics including basic food and nutrition, food safety, meal management, thrifty shopping and food resource management.

In our region, this program is available in Adams, Athens, Brown, Clinton, Fayette, Gallia, Highland, Hocking, Meigs, Pickaway, Pike, Ross and Scioto Counties. For additional information about the Family Nutrition Program contact your local county Extension Office.



## A simple field-test of soil quality

by Rafiq Islam, Brad Bapst, Kelly Roberts, and Tom Brawer

Farmers and Extension Agents have an increasing need for in-the-field assessments of soil quality to help guide soil and crop management decisions. Now a simple, inexpensive and quick field method has been developed by researchers at OSU South Centers at Piketon. The method involves adding a deep purple color permanganate chemical agent to a small sample of sun-dried soil in a plastic tube. After 2 minutes of hand shaking the deep purple color of the permanganate reagent changes rapidly to light pink or colorless to indicate increased amounts of active organic matter, which can then be compared to standard indicators of quality by matching with a color chart. The soil color chart is very closely related to soil quality indicators such as microbial biomass, respiration, aggregation and crop yields.

For more information contact Rafiq Islam at 740-289-2071, or [Islam.27@osu.edu](mailto:Islam.27@osu.edu)

## Working With Wood continued from page 1

portable sawmill operator and crafter served as the consultant for this project. For additional information contact Sara

J. Gurney or Deanna L. Tribe at (740) 286-2177, [gurney.10@osu.edu](mailto:gurney.10@osu.edu) or [tribe.1@osu.edu](mailto:tribe.1@osu.edu).



*Gary Haynes demonstrating how a cuttingboard was created using a mixture of different Appalachian hardwoods.*

## Existing Business Retention

by David Boulay

Research shows EXISTING businesses create 60% to 90% of all new jobs in Ohio. One hundred percent of a communities' lost business as well as 100% of its' layoffs comes from existing businesses. With that as a background, I will be working with the Business Retention and Expansion (BR&E) initiative in my new role as Management Specialist. The BR&E initiative will be implemented in cooperation with Dave Kraybill and Dawn Malone of the Department of Agricultural, Environmental, and Development Economics. We will explore opportunities to assist communities in the development of an informational database to identify strengths and weaknesses of their economies. This information can be used to make informed economic development decisions. By supporting and encouraging the growth of existing businesses, the end result will be healthier local economies. And if existing businesses are thriving, new businesses will also find these communities attractive.

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# Ohio Cooperative Development Center: Resources to Assist Producer Groups

by Travis West

The Ohio Cooperative Development Center (OCDC) contributes outreach, technical assistance, education and training for development of new cooperatives and strengthening of existing rural cooperatives within the OSU South Centers' Business Enhancement Network. The cooperative development program operates statewide; however, the critical needs in the 29 Appalachian Ohio counties receive primary focus.

OCDC is currently working with various

producer groups to explore value-added livestock and meat ventures. For example, Ohio Pro Beef Alliance, Inc. is a member held cooperative of beef cattle producers located in several Southern Ohio counties. The mission of Ohio Pro Beef is to improve the profitability and viability of their members' enterprises by working cooperatively to produce and market consistent high quality beef. OCDC is providing grant funds for the development of member

recruitment and marketing materials for the cooperative.

A group of rabbit producers are being assisted toward incorporation as a cooperative, to be known as Country Flavor Cooperative, Inc. The goal of Country Flavor is to provide a consistent market and improve profitability for members' rabbit enterprises through marketing a quality brand of products. OCDC is providing technical assistance to Country Flavor as they explore labeling and

wholesale marketing issues involved with their product line.

OCDC personnel are working with a task force, composed of OSU extension agents, specialists and animal scientists, to explore the production and marketing of meat goats in Ohio. The task force has requested OCDC grant to help conduct a marketing tour of a processing plant, distributor and marketing association.

For more information about OCDC or any cooperative activities, contact Travis West at 740-289-2071 or

[west.222@osu.edu](mailto:west.222@osu.edu).

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## OSU Extension Community - Based Watershed Management Program

by Jerry Iles

Community - Based watershed management is a concept that is meeting with great success throughout the state. There are now over 100 active community watershed groups throughout Ohio. Watersheds are simply an area of land that water flows over and under on its way to reaching a stream, river or lake. By using a natural boundary such as a watershed, our water resources can be protected through practical conservation land use planning measures. For instance in a heavily forested watershed, good forestry planning and conservation minded timber harvesting techniques play a significant role in maintaining habitat and stream water quality. In an urban watershed, cumulative effects of human activities such as runoff from parking lots, roads, gas stations, lawns etc. can affect water quality. Often simple conservation techniques such as riparian tree buffers plantings (streamside forest) can help reduce soil erosion and process nutrients from water runoff.

For more information about community watershed groups in your area or watershed management techniques for your farm or home call: Jerry Iles, Extension Agent - Watershed Management OSU Extension at (740) 286 - 2177 or e-mail at [iles.9@osu.edu](mailto:iles.9@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

## The Ohio 4-H Center

A fundraising campaign is underway to help construct the new Ohio 4-H Center.

It will be the first 4-H Center of its kind and located on the state's land grant university. It will feature state of the art facilities and "technology that will link the Ohio 4-H Center to Ohio's 88 counties, the nation and the world." The Ohio 4-H Center will be a facility for youth, adult volunteers, community organizations and all other Ohio State University partners."

"The Ohio 4-H Center Campaign is a priority for the Ohio State University and OSU Extension. 100% of the donations to the campaign will be private funds."

Get involved by contacting the Ohio 4-H Foundation, 2120 Fyffe road, Columbus, Ohio 43210. (614) 247 - 6904 or contact your local county extension office for more information.



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