



Housing and Environment News

Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service

U.S Department of Agriculture

Newsletter
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CSREES Transition Update

On January 6, 2009, Dr. Meryl Broussard, Chair of the Coordination Committee for the CSREES Transition, reported on the status of plans as CSREES transitions to the National Institute for Food and Agriculture (NIFA). The National Institute will be in place by October 1, 2009. Dr. Broussard prefaced his remarks by stating this is

- An opportunity to renew our excellence in agricultural research, education and extension;
- To continue to make a difference; and
- There will be changes in the agency.

The process in place has three teams:

- Vision Plus Team that is developing broad mission, vision and goal statements
- Functions and Configuration Team that is looking at how to reorganize the agency into the National Institute
- Communication Team

The teams need to complete their recommendations in the next two months and are soliciting both internal and external input.

Program Updates

Home Energy COP



The Home Energy eXtension Community of Practice (COP) has been approved and funded by eXtension and the Department of Energy. There are three main areas - existing homes, new homes, and alternative energy. The leadership team includes Shirley Niemeyer, Nebraska, Mike, Vogel, Montana; Claudette Reichel, Louisiana and Joe Wysocki, Washington, D.C. Over thirty housing, environment and energy specialists and educators are currently members and we are seeking additional members to join. Contact any of the above members for information. We are holding our first face-to-face working meeting January 26-29, 2009 in Las Vegas, Nevada.

Healthy Housing Conference

Healthy Homes Update



Help Yourself to a Healthy Home Protect Your Children's Health

- Don't smoke inside your home
- Test your home for radon
- Get rid of mold: keep your home dry
- Use carbon monoxide and smoke detectors
- Keep dust away: wash bedding in very hot water
- Get rid of bugs: keep your home clean
- Test children for lead
- Test your well water

Remember the Poison Control Center number: 1-800-222-1222

A successful meeting "Building a Framework for Healthy Housing for Healthy Housing: 2008 National Healthy Homes Conference" was held September 15-17, 2008 in Baltimore, MD. Sponsored by HUD, HHS, CDC, EPA, and USDA/CSREES, the theme reflected our commitment to pull together a broad community of experts to begin laying the necessary foundation to provide safe, healthy, and efficient (including affordable) homes for America's families. I was proud to be a member of the committee that planned this meeting.

Over 1500 people registered and attended the conference including many of our extension state Healthy Homes contacts. Never in my wildest dreams in my 40 years as a housing educator did I ever think that I would see 1500 people from across the nation and representing not only government agencies at all levels but also non-profits, universities, researchers and even consumers focusing on housing issues.

The conference had five tracks and a breadth of topics. I am especially proud of the excellent sessions many of our extension faculty conducted on indoor air pollutants, IPM, the USDA/CSREES Healthy Homes program, Healthy Homes 101 and many other topics.

Dr. Ralph Otto, Associate Administrator for USDA/CSREES, shared the podium at the closing session with Dr. Mary Jean Brown, CDC, David Rowson, EPA, Jon Gant, HUD, and Rebecca Morley, National Center for Healthy Housing and took questions and ideas from the audience (including Laura Booth, Auburn University) on strategies to improve our Nation's housing. It was gratifying to see an administrator from USDA with the other panelists demonstrating our agency support for housing education and research.

There were excellent exhibits and many opportunities to network with others who share our goal of moving the national healthy housing agenda to the forefront. I left the meeting filled with enthusiasm realizing that while we have a huge mountain to climb, there is clearly momentum that is building and energy around housing issues in our Nation again. Together, we can make a difference.

Healthy Housing

Laura Booth, Healthy Homes Project Coordinator at Auburn University for Healthy Homes will be sending out a new RFP this month. We expect to award each state grant in the \$4000.00 range.

It is important that you spend the funds you received last year. At this point, you should have spent at least half of the funds you received and have submitted these to Auburn for payment. Two states are joining the Healthy Homes Coordinator List - Pennsylvania and Virginia.

Under One Roof Conference

Fort Valley State University is sponsoring a one day conference, "Creating A Culture of Preparedness" in February 25, 2009, at Fort Valley, Georgia. Contact Keishan Thomas at themask@FVSU.edu or call (478) 825-6577. Registration is \$50.00.

Land and Healthy Homes Grantees Conference

The 2009 National Conference will be held April 28-May 1, 2009 in Orlando, Florida. 800-590-6522 or www.healthyhousingconference.com.

Resources

Money Management in Tough Times

Money Management in Tough Times is a new focus for eXtension. More Americans feel additional stress and anxiety about their financial future as talk of rising consumer debt, falling housing prices, rising cost of living and declining retail sales bring up worries about the nation's economic health. Visit eXtension for access to 18 fact sheets.

Universal Design DVD

A new Universal Design DVD is available for \$5.00 from the Ohio State University Extension eStore, <http://estore.OSU-extension.org/>.

In addition, visit <http://ehe.osu.edu/ud/> for related resources on universal design

- Power Point with design photos
- Handouts and fact sheets
- Home Assessment worksheet
- Personal Assessment worksheet



Oregon State University Housing Specialist Position

The Extension Family & Community Development Program (FCD) and the Department of Design & Human Environment (DHE), in the College of Health & Human Sciences at Oregon State University (OSU), invite applications for a full-time Extension Specialist faculty position focusing on community-based research and programming in areas related to housing education and housing policies.

Housing Specialist Position, cont.

The individual in this position will develop statewide Extension programs on topics that may include aging in place, housing finances, homebuyer education, healthy homes, indoor air quality, energy efficiency and environmental sustainability, and/or other related subjects. For questions regarding the application process, please contact Teresa Crowley at teresa.crowley@oregonstate.edu (e-mail) or 541-737-1014 (phone). Fax: 541-737-0999. Closing Date: February 20, 2009

Posted online: <https://jobs.oregonstate.edu/applicants/Central?quickFind=54320>

Environmental Health Observances

Happy New Year!

Get out your calendars to mark the following observances

[Information@www.healthfinder.gov/Who/nhoyear.asp?year=2009](http://www.healthfinder.gov/Who/nhoyear.asp?year=2009)

Environmental Health Observances

January		National Radon Action Month
March	15-21	National Inhalants and Poison Poison Week
April	7	World Health Day
	18	National Healthy Kids Day
	26-May 3	Safe Kids Week
May		Clean Air Month
		Older Americans Month
	31	World No Tobacco Day
June		Homes Safety Month
	1-7	Sun Safety Week
September		Health Aging Month
		National Preparedness Month
October		Healthy Lung Month
	4-10	Fire Prevention Week

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To learn about CSREES,
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