



# District 7 Newsletter

## November 2008

Since we have cancelled the District Staff Meeting in November, I am writing this newsletter. If you have any questions please feel free to call.

**Budgets** – It probably comes as no surprise that the state budget is very much on Administrations' minds these days. I am not sure what the final outcomes will be but, I feel certain we will see additional adjustments made to UK and Extension's budget mid-year. Fiscal Coordinators will need to be flexible as we may move our District Staff Meeting from January to February. One thing is sure, county contributions will need to increase significantly, so, if you are planning to spend major dollars in your county, you might want to put this off until after February.

**Performance Appraisals** – In September, you received notice that the performance documents for this year have changed to a narrative report based on evidences and competencies. Attached to this newsletter is a PowerPoint I had intended to show this month. Please review this PowerPoint then as I make mid-year visits, I will discuss the 6 new categories.

**Extension Extravaganza** – Again I wish to thank everyone for your participation in this event. You did an outstanding job of planning and presenting the showcased programs. I have been asked if this will take place again next year and I have said probably not. There may be something similar planned, but for a different type of audience. The State Extension Council Delegates will need to make this determination.

**4-H Camp Improvements** – 4 meetings were held at 4-H Camps across the state with Dean Smith, Linus Walton and Jimmy Henning to discuss priorities for camps. New beds and new mattresses were close to the top of the list and infrastructure (sewers at West Kentucky) topped the list. We may see 1 more round of talking to various people before a final decision. It was pointed out that we don't get the money until July 09, so changes won't occur until 2010 camping season. One cost savings is a commitment from a Lexington Architect to design the cabin of the future. This will be a gift valued at \$100,000.

**Epsilon Sigma Phi** – Please pay your dues before December 15<sup>th</sup>. ESP is one of the oldest and is the largest organization of Extension Professionals. It is open to Extension personnel and retirees. In Kentucky, membership is open after 5 years of service. Scholarships, trainings, recognition and involvement in public issues are just a few of the benefits. I encourage you to consider this professional opportunity.

**Operation Military Kids** – Agents need to be watching for opportunities to apply for military grants. Many of you applied for these last year and were able to provide some great programming with these funds.

**Randal Barnett Award** – The deadline for submitting is November 20<sup>th</sup>. Please send to me. The winning County Extension Council will be presented \$500 cash award plus a framed certificate. The entry form can be found on the District 7 website.

**Report to the People** – are due by Thanksgiving. The template for this can be found on the District 7 website. These reports are used by Administration and President Todd to convey our many successes to decision makers and others. Please send a hard copy to me once they are completed. Your Secretaries should have complete instructions on preparing this report.

**Diversity Awards** – You should have received correspondence from Martha Thompson concerning both individual and team Diversity Awards. The due date for these is December 1<sup>st</sup>. Remember these are cash awards to be used in programming in your county. We have always had great participation in these and dominated the winnings. Let's do it again this year.

**4-H Statisticals** – Congratulations to District 7 4-H Agents for your continued leadership and exemplary performance in reaching 4-Hers. As a State we are reaching 28% of Youth in Kentucky. As a District we reported reaching 38.52% of all youth in our District. FANTASTIC. This represents lots of hard work and long hours to reach this many youth. Congratulations on a job well done.

**See Blue Go Green Website** has been designed and is located at <http://www.ca.uky.edu/gogreen>. The Home, Youth, Farm and Woodlands pages are complete. There is great information here for you to use in programming and with media outlets.

**Drupal Trainings** – Thanks to everyone who has attended or plans to attend this training. We hope website development will be much easier in the future. Please encourage your secretaries to complete your transition within 2 weeks of training. Remember they may need some extra help from you to have time to complete this task.

**Mid-Year Counseling Sessions** – It's hard for me to believe, but it is time to schedule mid-year visits. Please check with Margie to schedule your date. I have the following available: December 16, 17 & 18; January 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 19, 20, 21, 22 or 23. I will need 1 hour per agent for this session and 1-2 hours as total staff to discuss budgets and performance appraisal evidence and competencies.

