

For Wed., Nov. 4, 2015 – all newspapers

Marais des Cygnes Extension District Celebrate Successes

The Marais des Cygnes Extension District held their 2nd annual district celebration on Monday, Nov. 2nd at the Paola office for District Board members, staff and invited guests. This event provided an opportunity to celebrate the many program accomplishments and goals achieved throughout the last year as an Extension district for Linn and Miami Counties. The following staff were recognized at this event for recent awards and programming efforts:



Diane Burnett with Dr. John Floros, Dean, College of Agriculture and Director, K-State Research and Extension

Diane Burnett, District Director and Family and Consumer Sciences Agent was recently named the *Outstanding District or County Extension Professional for 2015* at the annual Extension Conference in Manhattan on Oct. 22nd. Daryl Buchholz, Ph.D., Associate Director, Research and Extension provided these comments: “In her 25-year career with K-State Research and Extension, Diane has exhibited excellence in programming and is known for her expertise in family resource management. She served as co-leader of the Family Resource Management Program Focus Team for five years and continues as an active member and has authored or co-authored several programs and publications, including Basic Money Management for Life, and Get Financially Prepared: Take Steps Ahead of a Disaster. Diane helped pilot the Master Food Volunteer program for the nation/state and continues to provide leadership to an active group of volunteers in the district. She demonstrates her commitment to excellence through leadership and service to three professional organizations, which have recognized her with numerous individual and team awards.”

Gayle Price, the Southeast Area Family and Consumer Sciences Specialist offered the following comment: “As an Extension educator Diane's prime concern is people. She believes it is a professional responsibility to give her best and to continue to develop as an effective Extension Educator. During the past 25 years, she has taken many opportunities to empower individuals, families and communities in her county and district.” One thousand dollars (\$1,000) has been awarded to Diane be used for her Extension programming for the district.



Kathy Goul, the Marais des Cygnes Family Nutrition Program Assistant was recently named the *Outstanding SNAP-Ed Educator Award winner for 2015* and recognized for her outstanding job performance, teamwork, innovation and program citizenship. Sandy Procter, Coordinator, Kansas EFNEP and SNAP-Ed and Assistant Professor and Extension Specialist Department of Human Nutrition offered the following comments. “Kathy has earned the award “outstanding SNAP-Ed Educator” because she has stepped up and gone above and beyond expectations. Our winner has worked as a program assistant with FNP since August, 2003 – over 12 years. She has presented ideas and concepts to our graphics team to create programming solutions. As her county expanded into a district, she has expanded her efforts until additional staff came on board. She is involved and engaged in her community – really living and working at the policy, system and environmental change level.



↓ Franny Eastwood

Franny Eastwood, Marais des Cygnes District Family and Consumer Sciences Agent, Mound City office, was recognized as a member of the Outstanding Program Focus Team -Nutrition, Food Safety and Health. This is a state-wide group of agents and state specialists that focus their programming on these specific areas and offer leadership and programming support to the overall state Extension program for this subject area. Franny has been a active contributing member of this group since she joined the Marais des Cygnes District staff in January 2015. Their goal is to provide in-depth professional development for team members and more basic information for others and the team uses technology to bring outside experts to FCS faculty.



Megan Westerhold, Marais des Cygnes District agriculture and natural resources agent, Paola office was recognized for her work as a member of the 2014 Farm Bill Education Team. The 2014 Farm Bill was one of the most complicated farm bills ever written, and it presented producers with numerous decisions that would impact their operations for five years. Agents across the state and Kansas Farm Management Association economists held 179 meetings with 11,256 producers attending between mid-October and the end of March 2015. Megan worked in the Marais des Cygnes District with cooperation with Brian Leuker from FSA and hosted three educational meetings reaching 139 producers and also provided five individual consultations where she helped them run several of their farms through the KSU/OSU Decision tool and understand the results.

The program for the evening included recognition of six of the Extension District's valuable community partners and presentation of two Extension Appreciation Awards. Details and pictures for these will be shared in next week's newspaper.