

CYF NEWS

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MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY EXTENSION

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QUOTE OF THE MONTH

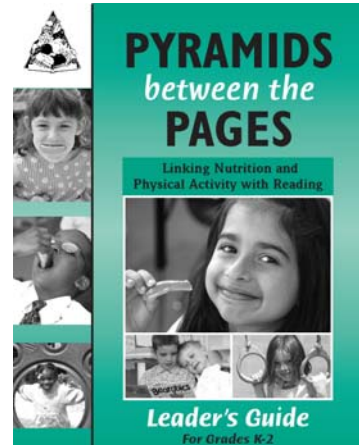
"I don't know the key to success, but the key to failure is trying to please everybody."

—*Bill Cosby*



UPDATED PYRAMIDS BETWEEN THE PAGES CURRICULUM USES EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING TO TEACH K-2 STUDENTS TO TRY NEW FOODS

If you're looking for a curriculum that focuses on teaching school-age children to taste and enjoy new foods, and that supports the new USDA MyPyramid, then you'll want to try out the newly revised *Pyramids Between the Pages* curriculum.



Pyramids Between the Pages is a take-and-teach curriculum that links the development of beginning

literacy skills with nutrition and physical activity education and promotion. The curriculum is designed for use with children in grades K-2 and can be used in a small or large group setting, in school or in an out-of-school-time program.

The curriculum contains six children's books with positive food, nutrition and physical activity messages: *Oliver's Milkshake*, *My Amazing Body*, *Animal Action ABC*, *The Ugly Vegetables*, *Growing Vegetable Soup* and *It's a Sandwich*; A step-by-step Leader's Guide that includes five lesson plans based on the books. Lesson plans include discussion starters, classroom cooking and literacy skill-building activities, games to get kids moving, and take-home handouts for parents/caregivers that promote reading and eating healthfully; and a *Pyramids Between the Pages* apron.

On-campus *Pyramids Between the Pages* is coordinated by Chris Flood who currently has limited funding to provide training on the revised curriculum to the six FNP regions. The training focuses on what's new in the curriculum and the research behind why some things changed. If you have questions about *Pyramids Between the Pages* or would like to schedule a training in your region please contact Chris Flood at floodc@msu.edu.

MDA CONSUMER FOOD SAFETY EDUCATION MINI-GRANTS ARE BACK!

We are pleased to announce the availability of the 2006 MDA Consumer Food Safety Education Mini-Grant funding aimed at improving the food safety practices and knowledge of Michigan consumers. Funding for the program is provided by the Michigan

Department of Agriculture (MDA). The mini-grant program is part of a larger education program for Michigan consumers called the Consumer Food Safety Education Fund, established through the Michigan Food Law of 2000.

Details of the Request for Proposals (RFP) will be posted on the Food Domain Web site (www.fooddomain.msu.edu) and we will also send you e-mails regarding this.

For questions, please contact Lillian Occena-Po (occena@anr.msu.edu)

HOLIDAY FOOD SAFETY TIPS

A new bulletin on Holiday Food Safety Tips is available at the Food Domain Web site:

http://fooddomain.msu.edu/docs/bulletin/Holiday_Food_Safety_TIPS2.PDF

If you have problems opening, please click on the link on the Food Domain home page:

<http://fooddomain.msu.edu/default.asp>

HAPPY HOLIDAYS to you all!

NUTRITION MESSAGES CD

A CD of nutrition media messages has been released by Cornell University. It can be used for PSAs on the radio and contains 30 nutrition and Food safety messages, plus ten in Spanish. By airing the messages on the radio, Extension can be positioned as a reliable source of food and nutrition information.

The contact person for the CD is:

Diane Whitten

50 W. High St., Ballston Spa, NY, 12020

E-mail: dsh23@cornell.edu

To hear a sample media message and obtain an order form, go to <http://www.ccesaratoga.org/> and click on Human Ecology. *Submitted by Beth Waitrovich*

FINANCIAL SECURITY FOR ALL is eXtension's Newest Offering Americans struggling to make good money management decisions in a complex marketplace now have a new tool at their disposal. eXtension's Financial Security for All (www.extension.org/personal_finance) brings the wealth of research-based university information on all aspects of attaining personal financial security.

"Many families around the country are striving to achieve financial stability. Now they will have many tools at their fingertips at any time of day or night to help them increase their money management skills and reach their financial goals," said Sharon Seiling, Ohio State University Family Resource Specialist.

Financial Security for All provides Internet visitors with reliable and up-to-date financial security information through online lessons for self-paced learning and a knowledge base of commonly asked questions with research-based, peer-reviewed answers to help users learn more about specialized areas of personal finance.

"Financial Security for All is like having a personal financial advisor, but even better. Publications and answers to Frequently Asked Questions on a wide variety of financial topics are available to consumers 24/7 at no cost," said Barb O'Neill, Extension Specialist; Rutgers Cooperative Research and Extension. "There is also an opportunity, through the Ask the Experts feature to get personalized advice and links to featured resources."

eXtension launched its first Community of Practice, HorseQuest, to the public on November 2, 2006. The launch of Financial Security for All is, at this time, just within the Cooperative Extension System. It is expected that the full public launch will occur shortly after January 1, 2007. Additional Communities of Practice on consumer horticulture, fire ant damage and control, and wildlife damage management are expected to also launch in early 2007.

Financial Security for All offers programming across the age spectrum and, according to Judy Branch, University of Vermont Extension Specialist Family and Community Development, the Web site will assist all family members in addressing money management issues. "Parents and teachers are concerned that youth learn to plan how they will spend, save and share money to reach their goals. Attitudes about money are established early. Parents will find sound information in the Youth Financial Literacy Web pages for eXtension Financial Security for All," she said.

"Teams of child development, and family economics specialists as well as experts in curriculum development have provided resources to aid in learning about money management for all ages-- pre-kindergarten through the teen and early adult years. Teens and pre-teens will find interactive Web pages to

help them understand basic principles and teachers and parents will find quality curricula for all ages,” said Branch.

As with all of eXtension, Financial Security for All has been developed through the collaboration of Community of Practice members—Extension professionals with expertise in this area. “Quality content developed in a virtual work place by an expert team is the formula for this exemplary, trusted, electronic learning environment. Participants will gain the knowledge, skills, motivation and confidence to make their own financial decisions,” said Jane Schuchardt, National Program Leader for Family Economics, at USDA’s Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service (CSREES).

Financial Security for All was developed through eXtension’s innovative collaborative tools including a unique “wiki” environment where community of practice members create, enhance, edit and publish the various components featured on the public Web site.

“It has been a stretch to become comfortable with new technology and working in a Web-based environment with multiple contributors. The rewards are becoming clear, as I begin to see the work of many coming together to produce a resource that will be valuable to us all, consumers and educators. As a county-based Extension professional, I appreciate being linked to expertise from around the country and will especially utilize the Frequently Asked Questions and Ask the Expert components of eXtension,” said Jacque Miller, Colorado State University Family Resource Management Specialist.

For more information on eXtension go to: <http://about.extension.org> or to join the Financial Security for All Community of Practice go to: <http://cop.extension.org/wiki/Financial>.

Submitted by Erica Tobe.

NEW STAFF TRAINING

Look for announcements regarding *Home Visits, Learn Together, and Nutrition I, II, III Series* in upcoming months for spring 2007 trainings.

BLUE RIBBON Q&A

Q. My county has requested participation numbers for a particular Michigan project code. I’m getting conflicting numbers when I run a Report | Statistical Report | Member Project Activity Club Statistical by project code and then do a report from File | Projects by Code. I’m not sure which of these reports is accurate.

A. The Statistical Report is correct. The reason you’re getting conflicting numbers in the File | Projects by Code is because it’s pulling all active projects even if the member/leader has a membership status of Inactive. When a member/leader’s status is changed to Inactive, you need to change all their projects to Inactive so they don’t count on the ES-237.

Q. I completed year-end processing and need to send letters to our dog leaders but their projects have all been set to inactive. How can I change the projects to active?

A. You’re given the option to set all projects to Inactive or leave them Active when you work through year-end processing steps. The choice is up to you. It’s good to ask which way will most likely require LESS data entry on your part to help make the decision.

You can use the Query feature to change ALL projects in the database to Active by using the following steps. File|Additional Queries|Member Project Query|Select|Select All|Options|Click on Edit Mode (a check mark appears to the left)|Action|Set Projects to “Active.” This will change all projects for all members and leaders.



Deadline for Next Edition of “CYF NEWS”

January 8, 2007, is the deadline to submit articles for the January 12, 2007, edition of “CYF News.” Please submit articles to Gail Hebert at hebertg@msu.edu