



FAMILY ECONOMICS AND CONSUMERISM UPDATE

SEPTEMBER – DECEMBER 2009

Welcome! Here is the first edition of the Family Economics and Consumerism Update. This update highlights many of the upcoming opportunities and information that may be pertinent for MSUE county based staff to share with local consumers. Our goal is to get an update out to staff every four months. If you have any questions about any of the items in this update, or if you have items you would like to have placed in upcoming editions, please email Gail Hebert, support staff, at hebertg@msu.edu. Thank you!

Family Economics and Consumerism Team Staff Members

CAREER AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP EDUCATION

Global Entrepreneurship Week

MSUE 4-H Youth Development has signed on to be a partner with Global Entrepreneurship Week, www.unleashingideas.org. This one-week event, November 16-21, 2009, will highlight and feature youth entrepreneurship programming throughout our state, nation, and world. If you are looking for a way to introduce youth entrepreneurship in your community, consider hosting an event during this week. By hosting an event, you will energize both youth and adults and help boost Michigan’s economy. Click here for more details <file:///J:/Web%20Team/fm/doc/Global%20Entrepreneurship.docx>.

Local Youth Entrepreneur Finds Great Success in his Business

Since February of 2009 Corbin Angus, a senior at Bellevue High School, has been the owner of Pet Pantry, a business where he makes and markets healthy pet treats. Read the complete story to learn about this successful Michigan 4-H Youth Entrepreneur, featured in the Future CEO Stars Magazine, housed by the National Consortium for Entrepreneurship Education at <http://www.fcsmag.com/>.

FINANCIAL EDUCATION

FDIC’s Money Smart Podcast Network (MSPN)

The FDIC’s Money Smart Podcast Network (MSPN) covers topics such as the basics of borrowing money wisely, using a spending plan to achieve financial goals, and how to effectively use banking products. Consumers can listen to the audio files online or download them to a portable audio player. View <http://74.205.121.32/index.html> to learn more about FDIC and what they have to offer.

Adult Financial Educational Resources for Extension Educators

The Family Economics and Consumerism (FEC) Toolkit has been revised to include a demographic component for local and statewide data collection. If you are not utilizing the FEC Toolkit in your Financial Educational Programming, please consider doing so as the toolkit is designed to ensure an appropriate point of entry regarding Consumer Financial Educational Programming. The toolkit can be accessed by going to the portal sight at <http://www.msue.msu.edu/portal/>, logging into “My Extension,” clicking “Staff Resources,” and finally the “Announcement Tap.”

Asset Building Statewide Programs

Michigan credit unions’ have designed an asset-building program titled “Save to Win.” “Save to Win” is a special savings account at a credit union that helps members build their savings while also giving them a chance to win a grand prize of \$100,000, plus monthly cash prizes! Each \$25 deposit into this certificate helps to build savings and

gets the member another chance to win (up to 10 chances every month), plus all the money deposited into the "Save to Win" account. Background information can be found at <http://www.mcul.org/files/cucorp/744/file/Save%20to%20Win%20explained.pdf> and consumers can obtain more information at [http://www.mcul.org/Save to Win 2187.html](http://www.mcul.org/Save_to_Win_2187.html).

New! Small Steps to Health and Wealth Lesson Plans

The University of Florida, in cooperation with Rutgers University, has created nine lesson plans and evaluation instruments to be used with the Small Steps to Health and Wealth (SSHW) program. The lessons were prepared to break the SSHW program into chunks to use for outreach purposes. Each lesson plan is designed for a typical class session and includes suggested readings for educators, a grouping of strategies from the SSHW workbook, and several activities to be done in class. The lessons are available at the SSHW internal Web site for Extension educators at <http://njaes.rutgers.edu/sshw/internal> or by emailing Michael S. Gutter, University of Florida at msgutter@ufl.edu. SSHW workbooks can be ordered through the NRAES Web site at www.nraes.org or from Barbara O'Neill, Rutgers University, at oneill@aesop.rutgers.edu.

The Financial Security for all Community Hosts Informational Chat Sessions Online

The Financial Security for All Community is hosting a series of informational eXtension chat sessions online at http://www.extension.org/pages/Personal_Finance_Chats. During a chat session, you can pose your own questions and get answers from our personal finance experts. Upcoming Personal Finance chat sessions include: "Talking with Teens about Money" (September 24, 2009) and "Tips for Happy Holidays without Financial Hangover" (October 29, 2009).

Financial Health Index Survey

A team of MSUE Staff, along with several key partners, is pleased to announce the pilot release of the Michigan Financial Health Index. In cooperation with Dr. Lisa Cook, Economics Assistant Professor, James Madison College, Michigan State University, this Financial Health Index will assist MSUE and project partners in understanding the basic consumer and financial needs of Michigan consumers today. Currently, this site is being piloted in Southeast Michigan. Please direct consumers that you work with to complete this survey online. You can find the survey at the following links: <http://www.zoomerang.com/Survey/?p=WEB2294M4W455W> or www.msue.msu.edu.

Invitation to Join Managing in Tough Times Network (MiTTNET)

The Cooperative Extension System has recently launched a directory of programmatic resources for Managing in Tough Times (MiTTNet) containing educational resources for use by Extension professionals in developing educational programs for farm & ranch managers, families & individuals, youth, and communities related to meeting the demands of today's economic challenges.

MiTTNet has more than 900 educational resources that can be viewed and downloaded for use in local programming by Extension faculty and staff. This is NOT a resource for the public, but a directory of educational materials and resources available to Cooperative Extension faculty and staff to use as they help to meet the challenges their clientele are facing in today's economic environment. The directory is but one part of the Managing in Tough Times initiative. It will be supplemented by other resources including targeted webinars on relevant subjects as well as alerts about new additions and contributions to the MiTTNet directory.

BUT, to stay informed about all of these exciting activities you MUST join the Managing in Tough Times Community within eXtension. And, it's a simple and easy process. First, you must have an eXtension ID. If you don't have one, simply go to <http://people.extension.org>. At the bottom of the login page you will see: "If you don't already have an eXtension ID, please [signup for one!](#)" Once you have received confirmation that your eXtension ID is approved, simply log in to eXtension via <http://people.extension.org>. In the navigation bar you will see "Communities". Click and then scroll down to "Newest Communities". Choose the Managing in Tough Times Community. Ask to join. You'll receive an email when your community membership has been approved. Click here for more details <http://mittnet.extension.org/>

New - America Saves Campaign now has quarterly themes which extend the initiative beyond the week dedication – The Basics of Saving, Youth, Debt Reduction, and Retirement. Details can be found at <http://www.americasaves.org/organize/quarterlythemes.asp>

During America Saves Week, February 21-29, 2010, individuals will be encouraged and assisted to assess their savings progress and take action to advance this progress. This encouragement and assistance will be provided by organizations and professionals with an interest in improving the financial security of individuals and families. Visit <http://www.americasavesweek.org/> to learn more about America Saves Week and how you can participate.

HOUSING EDUCATION

Helping Families Save Homes Act of 2009 – Title VII: Guidance Tenant Protections

On May 20, 2009, the Helping Families Save Their Homes Act of 2009, P.L. 111-22, was signed into law. Title VII of this law, the Protecting Tenants at Foreclosure Act, provides protections to tenants from eviction as a result of foreclosure on the properties they are renting. These provisions took effect on May 20, 2009, and will expire on December 30, 2012. To read complete details click on <http://www.occ.treas.gov/ftp/bulletin/2009-28.html>

Housing Conferences and Professional Development

Foreclosure Trainings:

As foreclosure is a huge challenge for many Michiganders, the Michigan Training and Technical Assistance Collaborative, in partnership with MSHDA, will provide a variety of foreclosure trainings throughout the state. The first of these trainings, a Webinar on foreclosure prevention, will take place on Monday, September 21, from 9:30-11:30 a.m. Details on how to register can be found at <http://www.mittac.org/bin/listuser.php>.

NeighborWorks Training:

The next NeighborWorks Training will be held in Washington DC at the Gaylord National Hotel and Convention Center — a brand-new facility that is the cornerstone of National Harbor, an innovative mixed-use development in Montgomery County, MD, across the Potomac from Washington, DC. Details about the December Certification Training and all Neighbor Works Training can be found at <http://www.nw.org/network/home.asp> by clicking on the “Training and Certificate” tap.

Housing Educational Resources for Extension Educators

Right at Home Answers:

“Right at Home Answers” is brought to you by the Michigan Credit Union League with funding from a National Credit Union Foundation Innovation Grant in partnership with Michigan State University Extension, Michigan Association of United Way, and CU Village.com. The DVD and the Web site are designed to help consumers with inquires around mortgage & foreclosure timelines, relief programs, as well as tips for avoiding fraud and scams. The “Right at Home” Web site can be accessed at <http://www.rightathomeanswers.org/>.

Attention Homeowners:

On July 5, 2009, Michigan Law REQUIRES ALL LENDERS TO WORK WITH CONSUMERS TO AVOID FORECLOSURE. Details about the law can be found at http://miforeclosure.mplp.org/images/new_foreclosure_law_homeowner_flyer.pdf. The flyer is perfect for informing consumers of the new law and their rights as homeowners.

Family Economics and Consumerism (FEC) Housing Toolkit:

The information contained within the Family Economics and Consumerism (FEC) Housing Toolkit is designed to ensure that the point of entry of financial educational opportunities is relevant to the consumers’ need and readiness to implement financial tools and skills offered by an Extension Educator. The MSUE Housing Toolkit is not a substitute for formal Housing Counseling/Educational Training provided by NeighborWorks® or training provided by a State Housing Authority; rather the MSUE Housing Toolkit is designed to offer Extension Educators a

“comfort level” with the subject matter and resources to answer general questions. The MSUE FEC Housing Toolkit is available on the portal and can be accessed by going to the portal sight at <http://www.msue.msu.edu/portal/>, logging into “My Extension,” clicking “Staff Resources,” and finally the “Announcement Tap.”

New Home Equity Conversion Mortgage Counseling Protocol

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) will be issuing a new Home Equity Conversion Mortgage (HECM) counseling protocol. One requirement is that all HECM roster counselors or lenders must provide interested consumers with National Council On Aging’s (NCOA’s) 28-page booklet on home equity and reverse mortgages. You can download FREE copies of the booklet at www.ncoa.org/reversemortgagecounseling. For further information on the NCOA consumer booklet, visit NCOA’s Web site www.ncoa.org/reversemortgagecounseling.

MSU Extension’s Washtenaw and Macomb County Offices Awarded

Congratulations to MSU Extension’s Washtenaw and Macomb County Offices for being awarded the Agency of the Year award from Michigan State Housing Development Authority (MSHDA) for 2009! Great job!

MSU Extension’s Clare, Ionia, Macomb and Washtenaw County Offices Awarded

Congratulations to MSU Extension’s Clare, Ionia, Macomb and Washtenaw county offices for being awarded Americorp positions through the Michigan Foreclosure Task Force to assist with foreclosure prevention efforts in their community!

UPCOMING EVENTS

Global Entrepreneurship Week November 16-21, 2009 www.unleashingideas.org

America Saves Week February 21-29, 2010 <http://www.americasavesweek.org/>

Money Smart Week April 17-24, 2010 – www.moneysmartweek.org

CONFERENCE OPPORTUNITIES

The state of Virginia will host the **27th Annual Entrepreneurship Education Forum** from November 6-10, 2009, in Norfolk, Virginia. Registration deadline is September 15, 2009. Scholarships will be available to help teachers and instructors cover the costs of attending the conference. Check out all of the details by visiting <http://www.entre-ed.org/network/forum.htm>. Visit the Consortium for Entrepreneurship Education’s home page at <http://www.entre-ed.org/>.

The Association for Financial Counseling and Planning Educators (AFCPE) annual conference will be November 18-20, 2009, at the Scottsdale Plaza Resort in Scottsdale, Arizona. Registration deadline is October 23, 2009. Visit <http://www.afcpe.org/conference/> for more information.

The National Association of Extension 4-H Agents (NAE4HA) annual conference will be October 25-29, 2009, at the Rochester Riverside Convention Center. Registration is still available. Visit <http://media.cce.cornell.edu/hosts/nae4ha2009//index.html> for more information.

The National Extension Association of Family & Consumer Sciences (NEAFCS) invites you to come to Birmingham, Alabama for its 2009 Annual Session, September 14 - 18, 2009. The theme of this Annual Session is *Celebrating Our Heritage, Embracing Our Future*. It is an appropriate theme as we take time to celebrate the Association's diamond anniversary, 75 years of continued professional development and service

furthering the field of Family and Consumer Sciences. Let us tell you about a few of the things you can experience and enjoy when you come south in 2009. You can register online, by fax, or by mail, starting April 20, 2009. To learn more on the conference and what you can experience and enjoy while in Birmingham, visit <http://www.neafcs.org/content.asp?pageID=1538>

“Personal Finance: Rigor, Relevant, & Relationship” – Teacher Education Conferences
December 2, 2009, at the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago, Detroit Branch and March 25, 2010, at the Kent ISD Grand Rapids. CEU credits will be available. For more information, please visit www.mijumpstartcoalition.org. Registration details will be available online after September 30, 2009.

NEFE High School Financial Planning Statewide Trainings

September 22nd – CASE Credit Union – Lansing, MI
September 22nd – EXTRA Credit Union – Warren, MI
September 30th – Iron County Courthouse – Crystal Falls, MI
October 21st – Macomb County ISD – Clinton Township, MI

NEFE Trainings are scheduled from 9:00 am – 3:00 pm.
All trainings are free of charge and will serve morning refreshments and lunch on site. If you are in need of special accommodations, please contact Erica Tobe at tobee@msu.edu as soon as possible. Thank you!

To register for all trainings except for the October 21st training, please visit <http://web2.msue.msu.edu/in-service/>. To register for the October 21st Macomb ISD training, please visit www.misd.net.

Any questions about either set of events, please contact Erica Tobe at tobee@msu.edu. Thank you!

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