

November 22, 2016

Memorandum To: *All County Extension Agents and Extension Agents – Southeast Extension District 9*

From: *Dale A. Fritz, Ph.D., District Extension Administrator*

Subject: *Program/Personnel Updates – Southeast Extension District 9*

Appointment

- **Carla Hayes** has been hired as the new Grimes County Extension Agent – FCS with the Cooperative Extension Program at Prairie View A&M University. Her starting date will be December 1, 2016. Carla earned Master of Science Degree in Human Science (Marriage and Family Therapy) from Prairie View A&M University and a Bachelor of Science Degree in Dietetics also from Prairie View A&M University. For the past four years, Carla served as a Research Graduate Assistant in the Office of Research and Graduate School at Prairie View A&M University. Previously, Carla served a Research Assistant at Prairie View A&M University, Extension Program Specialist I (Wisdom, Power, and Control Diabetes Program) with the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service, Human Nutrition and Food Research Graduate Assistant, and Intern with the Cooperative Extension Program in Washington County. Please join me in welcoming Carla to Grimes County and District 9.

Resignations

- **Chinatu Gladrich** has submitted her resignation from the Jefferson County Extension Agent – FCS position. Her last day with the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service will be November 30, 2016. Please join me in wishing Chinatu the very best in her future endeavors.
- **Christian Malsatzki** has submitted his resignation from the Harris County Extension Agent – Ag/NR position. His last day with the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service will be November 30, 2016. Christian has accepted a position with Cornell Cooperative Extension in New York. Please join me in wishing Christian the very best in his transfer to New York.

Open Positions in District 9

The following positions are currently open in Southeast Extension District 9. If you know of individuals who may be interested in working for the Cooperative Extension Program at Prairie View A&M University, please let them know of these vacancies.

- Harris CEA-Ag/NR
- Harris EA-Ag/NR-CEP (interview conducted)

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- Harris EA-4-H-CEP
- Jefferson CEA-FCS
- Waller EA-Ag/NR-CEP (position posted)

Upcoming Professional Development Opportunities

- **District 9 Support Staff Training** – November 29, 2016 – 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. – Tom LeRoy Extension Education Center, Conroe – Thank you is extended to our District 9 Texas Extension Association of Family and Consumer Science for their sponsorship for this important training.
- **Texas Plant Protection Conference** – December 6-7, 2016 – Brazos Center, Bryan
- **District FCS Training and TEAFCS Business Meeting** – December 8, 2016 – 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. – Fort Bend County Extension Center, Rosenberg

Program Planning and Program Summary Activities

The following Program Planning and Program Summary activities are happening now. Please make sure that you are working toward finalizing your 2017 Program Plan and summarizing your 2016 Program Accomplishments.

- **Due date for all final 2017 Program Plans in TexasData System – December 1, 2016**
- **Due date for your county's "Extension Education – Making a Difference 2016" Executive Summary – Prior to your County Interpretation Event**
- **Due date for your 2016 In-Depth and Outreach Program Summaries – December 15, 2016**
- **Due date for your county's "Extension Education – Making a Difference 2016" Document – December 31, 2016**

Why Do We Celebrate Thanksgiving?

Thanksgiving is celebrated in the United States as a national holiday dedicated to being with family and friends to give thanks for all of the blessings received throughout the previous year. The holiday is believed to have been celebrated first in 1621 when the Plymouth settlers enjoyed a fall feast to celebrate a bountiful harvest with the local Wampanoag Indians.

Prior to the event that is believed to be the first Thanksgiving, harvest feasts were practiced in New England, though they did not catch on as a yearly event. According to most historians, the tradition of having these harvest feasts came over to America with the Puritan and Pilgrim settlers from England. During this first feast, the attendees dined on pumpkin, turkey, goose, corn and other items that are now common at Thanksgiving dinners.

As per most historians, the settlers did not intend for this to be a yearly feast when they began it. The tradition of a yearly Thanksgiving feast did not become official until President George Washington declared that the nation would celebrate with a day of Thanksgiving on November 26, 1789. President Abraham

Lincoln wrote a proclamation declaring that all states in the union would celebrate the day in 1863. President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed a resolution from Congress on December 26, 1941 that moved the official date of Thanksgiving from the last Thursday in November to the fourth.

I hope that each of you will have a very happy Thanksgiving with your family and friends. Please remember to give thanks for our many blessings during the year which include freedom, health and well-being. Thanks for what you do to **“Help Texans Better Their Lives.”**

If you have questions or comments, please let me know.