



# NEWS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

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April 5, 2021

Taking It to The (Cyber) Street: CSU Extension goes virtual with its growing list of programs and services

Wilberforce, Ohio --- As the world closed in, Central State University Extension (CSUE) opened up its delivery platforms for programs and events with this past season of COVID-19 challenging all organizations to redesign their programs to remain impactful, strategic and relevant.

Programs in all four areas of Central State University Extension (CSUE) are now featuring virtual programming to reach clients during this season of COVID-19 as well as to allow all participants to access information in a variety of accessible channels that meet their needs.

In addition, two newly hired videographers film educational programs and events shared through the CSUE website, YouTube channel and social media platforms. Multiple radio programs are produced to further disseminate information.

Following are examples of virtual outreach platforms in each CSUE program:

Community and Economic Development (CED):

- **Fresh Start Record Sealing Program** managed through telephone and virtual contact. Every interested participant applies on-line to complete the necessary entry form, which is followed up with an information go-by document that is provided by our CED staff. A follow-up telephone call by the record sealing team is made to the participant to verify their information and criminal record data, and lastly, a virtual meeting with an assigned attorney is scheduled to get the participant processed.
- **High School Equivalency (GED) Program** managed virtually through a partnership with a contractor who designs an Individual Learning Plan through a telephone conversation. The entire GED training, classroom sessions, and one-on-one meetings are all held virtually.
- **Ready, Set, Grow! Business Development Program** fully accessible through CED website portal that is currently being developed. This will allow the entrepreneur and agri-business farmer to learn through a self-paced process that is easy, manageable, and catered to their schedule. All business

training curricula will be available through a series of optional training modules and videos for them to select from. CED Extension Educators will have available “virtual office hours” per day to communicate with our entrepreneurs, answer questions, and address their business needs through scheduled virtual chats.

#### Family and Consumer Science:

- Central State University Extension’s free **Diabetes Empowerment Education Program (DEEP™)** series of classes offered virtually via Microsoft Teams. The Diabetes Empowerment Education Program is a series of eight classes conducted by Central State University Extension (CSUE) and community partners. Participants attend one session per week for eight weeks to participate in presentations, hands-on activities, and simple exercises.
- Multiple health and wellness short videos are produced and posted on the CSUE website, YouTube channel and social media platforms.

#### Agriculture/Natural Resources:

- Central State University Extension’s (CSUE) hosted a webinar series, **“Caring for Honeybee Queens,”** every other Wednesday for six weeks, that focused on quality, developing queen cells and encouraging genetic diversity. A USDA North Central Region SARE partnership Grant supports the webinar series. Master beekeepers and researchers from Ohio and Kentucky offered the workshop series for intermediate-level beekeepers to discuss the biology of honeybee queens including the importance of queen cells and development to behavior and genetics.
- Sharing the latest information in **Maintaining Sow Herd Health**, Central State University Extension (CSUE) hosted a free webinar featuring Sherrie Clark, DVM, through Microsoft Office TEAMS. Dr. Clark discussed the proper vaccine protocols for the herd to keep the sow healthy as well as giving passive immunity to the piglets. She discussed the nutrient requirements through the different production stages to ensure the optimal body condition when it comes to gestation and farrowing.
- Virtual and in-person information meetings hosted by Central State University Extension (CSUE) agriculture/natural resources educators to share how participants may sign up for a community garden bed at the **CSU Seed to Bloom Botanical and Community Garden**. Virtual (TEAMS) meetings were offered. An in-person meeting was also held at the Garden. The meetings shared the history and purpose of the CSU Seed to Bloom Botanical and Community Garden, as well as how to register for a garden bed, review garden rules and expectations, and the selection process.
- Central State University Extension and Ohio State University Extension collaborated to present the **2021 Land Grant Virtual Hemp Conference: Looking Back to Plan for the Future**. A virtual conference was held with a wide variety of speakers focusing on growing and marketing hemp. A virtual trade show was held featuring hemp processors to enable potential growers to discover possible markets. Vendors included suppliers, such as irrigation companies.
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#### 4-H and Youth Development:

Due to COVID-19 protocols, program needs of students, teachers and schools have changed.

Central State University Extension has provided a variety of hands-on activities that to address needs. The School needs that were identified included:

- New requirement to educate youth on how to wear a face mask
- New requirement to educate youth on how to practice social distancing
- Hands on teaching activities in which program materials are not shared in student group settings  
(*Local Health Departments have indicated no sharing of materials*)

Securing teaching materials that can be used virtually or in-person with “no or low screen time.”

- Concerns with virtual teaching include:
- Too much screen time
- A need for hands on learning materials/activities
- Too much sitting and lack of structured recess time (some schools do not have funding for Physical Education Teachers)

As a result:

CSUE 4-H staff provided packaged activities for virtual or in-person learning to address needs created by COVID-19. Activities focused on developing skills for the youth’s hands, heart, head, and health -- the basic tenets of the 4-H program and pledge.

These activities provided hands-on learning with no sharing of materials and low- or no-screen time. Needs also indicated a concern of too much sitting and lack of structured recess time (since some schools do not have funding for Physical Education Teachers).

Students were provided with educational (paper) handouts that referenced the CDC guidelines. Students learned how to make, wear, and take off a face mask; practice good handwashing and how to Social (Physical) Distance.

Other COVID-19 responses included:

- Packaged Activities included: How to Make a Face Mask Without a Sewing Machine; Engineering Your Own Social Distancing Apparatus; Engineering a Wire Art Creation; Painting Rocks of Kindness; Trees are *Treemendous* - Tree Cookies; Exercise Dice Challenge; and Outdoor Games & Beach Ball Activities.
- Over 1,400 fun hands-on STEM “Packaged Activities” were distributed to schools and communities in Greene County (Greene County Intervention Center, Youthland Academy Daycare) - Franklin County (Educational Academy for Boys and Girls, Cesar Chavez Preparatory School) - Clark County (Fulton Elementary Springfield City Schools Afterschool Program).

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About Central State University: Central State University, located in Wilberforce, Ohio, is a regionally accredited 1890 Land-Grant University with a 133-year tradition of preparing students from diverse backgrounds and experiences for leadership, research and service. The University, which has been named HBCU of the Year by HBCU Digest, fosters academic excellence within a

nurturing environment and provides a strong liberal arts foundation and STEM-Ag curriculum leading to professional careers and advanced studies globally.

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Central State University Land-Grant programs are sponsored in part by funding from the USDA-NIFA.