Hi, just a reminder that you’re receiving this email because you have an interest in the Healthy Homes Partnership. Please add lahouse@agcenter.lsu.edu to your address book so we’ll be sure to land in your inbox!

You may unsubscribe if you no longer wish to receive our emails.

June 2015

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Director’s Update

Welcome to the inaugural edition of Healthy Homes Highlights, the Healthy Homes Partnership (HHP) e-newsletter. We hope it will be a handy and useful idea exchange, information update and news resource for your healthy homes (HH) educational programs. This month it highlights eight state HHP projects underway and introduces the features to anticipate in each monthly issue.

HHP is a consortium of university educators, researchers and extension specialists in partnership with U.S. Dept. of Agriculture National Institute of Food and Agriculture (USDA-NIFA) and U.S. Dept. of Housing and Urban Development Office of Lead Hazard Control and Healthy Homes (HUD-OLHCHH). Now in our 15th year, our efforts have mobilized individual actions and improved environmental decision-making skills among millions of consumers. We partner with many state agencies, medical professionals, schools, and community groups to educate families on home health hazards using the eight principles of healthy homes.

We hope you’ll visit our website at healthyhomespartnership.net and social media locations on Facebook, Twitter, Pinterest, and others. If you have questions on our program or resources, please email us at healthyhomespartnership@gmail.com. If you have ideas, news or resources for future newsletters, please email Claudette Hanks Reichel at lahouse@agcenter.lsu.edu.

Michael Goldschmidt, National Director - Healthy Homes Partnership
8 HHP State Projects

*Healthy Homes Partnership (HHP)* includes 8 state Extension educational initiatives designed to reduce housing deficiencies and risks associated with adult and childhood diseases and injuries. Each project is using the *Healthy Homes Solutions (HHS) Toolkit* curriculum (developed by Montana State University Extension and other Extension specialists), building state partnerships, and generating national exposure to HHP program successes and efforts.

**Alaska**

UA Fairbanks Extension is targeting senior citizens and their caregivers and adapting the HHS lessons for cold climates to:

- Conduct 4+ webinars for advisory boards and Extension Services.
- **Train** housing and energy specialists of Maine, New Hampshire, Rhode Island and Vermont, and provide opportunities for training other Extension educators.
- **Teach HHS** regionwide via webinars, videoconferencing and presentations.
- **Use innovative modes of delivery** like brown bag lunches at up to 70 libraries.
- **Use HHS fact sheets, slides, and teaching aids in development of a new module on home modifications** to prevent falls in northern climates.

**Connecticut**

UCONN Extension is studying and using the HHS Toolkit content to:

- **Develop a social media presence** of HHS and other HH resources.
- **Develop a communications and marketing strategy** to advance HH.
- Actively maintain several social media platforms to educate diverse consumers, during and beyond the project term.
- **Assess the impact** of sites via social media management software.

**Georgia**

UG Extension is teaming up with Fort Valley and North Carolina Extension to:

- Conduct two workshops and an interactive webinar to **train childcare providers**.
- Participate in health fairs and community events to increase consumer awareness and actions to improve their home environments.
- **Work with MU in development of the HHP website and social media outreach.**

**Louisiana**

LSU AgCenter Extension is making connections and dovetailing programs to:

- **Produce this monthly mobile-friendly e-newsletter** for HHP educators and collaborators, sharing ideas and updates to enhance national program success.
- **Cultivate a La. Healthy Homes Coalition** to foster collaborations.
- Conduct "La-Miss" **inservice training** on HHS and provide pre-stocked kits to La. local agents plus key Miss. specialists who will train their agents.
- **Utilize LaHouse Resource Center** exhibits, website, Facebook, YouTube and classes for pros to increase HH awareness, interest and practices.

**Missouri**
MU Extension's 8 regional Housing Specialists are using the HHS Toolkit to:

- Implement **40+ educational programs**, reaching approx. 650.
- Develop **posters** to increase awareness of home hazards and display in laundry facilities, child care centers, community action offices and health fairs.
- Work with GA and NC to build an **HHP website** that provides a national delivery system for HH information and links educators to conferences, trainings, and organizations.

**Montana**
MSU Extension is working with MU to:

- **Add content** to the HHS Toolkit.
- Provide information and **updates** for HHP projects and housing educators, and link to other HH consumer sites.
- Develop an online HHP program **tracking system/database**.
- Host 3 **webinars** to familiarize state/regional advisory boards with HHP.

**Oklahoma**
In order to add value to the HHS Toolkit, OSU Extension will:

- Develop an HH **mobile app** for Apple, Android, and Windows platforms.
- Make the app **accessible and free** to anyone who delivers HH education.
- Use Google **analytics** and a marketing/feedback **survey** to improve the app.

**Tennessee**
UT Extension is collaborating with the other HHP project states to:

- Produce monthly **webinars** on HHS content and coalition or advisory board strategies for success -- spotlighting successful community-based programs with real-world examples of challenges and solutions from guest-speakers.
- Compile **resources** for use by HH Advisory Boards.
- Conduct a **planning conference** for the Tenn. HH Advisory Board.
- Develop **strategies to sustain** webinars and HH Advisory Boards beyond 2015.

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**Topic of the Month: Indoor Air Quality**

You know good indoor air quality (IAQ) is critical for health and comfort. Most IAQ problems in homes originate from indoor sources of gases or particles. Inadequate ventilation, high temperatures, and high humidity levels can increase the concentration of indoor air pollutants. So... healthy IAQ requires the right priority of actions to be most effective:

**1st Priority = source and moisture control**

**2nd Priority = proper ventilation** *(to dilute pollutants that can't be avoided)*

Last priority = filtration *(to capture some of the airborne particles)*

**IAQ Updates:**
A View Indoors is a new EPA series of e-articles providing information and tips on common indoor air quality issues where you live, work or play. In the current issue, they discuss the problem of using odor as an indication of air quality in the article, If it smells good and fresh, is it good for my indoor air and me? (Spoiler Alert! The answer is NO! Read more to find out why.)

Indoor airPLUS labeled homes are designed and built to help protect the occupants from indoor air pollution. The program also provides builders of ENERGY STAR Certified Homes with a new opportunity to differentiate themselves from the competition. The Indoor airPLUS Construction Specifications have recently been updated with program improvements to address feedback and improve alignment with Energy Star. See or download the specifications.

Healthy Indoor Environment Protocols for Home Energy Upgrades provides a detailed set of best practices for improving indoor air quality in conjunction with energy retrofit work in homes. It was developed by EPA and industry experts to help ensure that home energy improvements and weatherization protect health while saving energy and money for the households.

The IAQ Scientific Findings Resource Bank summarizes the state of scientific knowledge about the relationships between people's health and productivity and the IAQ conditions or associated building characteristics in which people work or reside. This website also provides links for downloading published journal articles that were developed under the project.

Next Issue’s Topic: Mold and Moisture Control

Social Snacks

Here are short posting ideas on the topic of the month that you can use in your social media outreach to consumers.

PLEASE FEED ME! If you use social media for HH outreach, please send us your posts that produce big reach numbers to share in a future newsletter.

June is National Safety Month! Do you have a carbon monoxide (CO) detector? You can't see or smell CO, so every home with an enclosed garage, gas furnace, water heater, stove, fireplace or other fuel-burning appliance needs one. Visit National Safety Council for more ways to keep you and your family safe at home.

#DidYouKnow Did you know most Americans spend 90% of time indoors? So, what's in your home's air matters. Follow us to learn more.

True or False? Outdoor air is more polluted than indoor air. (See next post for the answer)

FALSE! The indoor air in most homes has more types and higher levels of pollution than outdoor air, even in smokestack areas. The good news is, there is much that YOU can do to ensure healthy indoor air in your home.

News

HUD Healthy Homes Website Launched!

The federal inter-agency healthy homes website is now active and has a home at www.healthyhomes.hud.gov, the home page for the HUD Office of Lead Hazard Control and Healthy Homes. It includes consumer information about various HH
Topics, "Popular Topics" such as *What is a Healthy Home?, Healthy Home Rating System, Bed Bugs...* and others, as well as HUD programs and news.

**HHP at HUD HH Disaster Recovery Outreach Workshop**

Michael Goldschmidt and Claudette Reichel represented Extension in HUD's inaugural interagency *Healthy Homes Disaster Recovery Outreach Workshop* on a frigid February 24, 2015 in Washington D.C. Many federal agencies and organizations participated to share, collaborate and see HUD's new resources that infuse healthy homes into disaster recovery guides and programs.

**NCHH Has a New Executive Director**

The National Center for Healthy Housing (NCHH) is excited to announce that Nancy Rockett Eldridge has been selected as their new Executive Director. She plans to expand NCHH's focus into healthcare interventions and aging-in-place. [Read More...](#)

**Healthy Housing Solutions Launches New Website**

Healthy Housing Solutions, Inc. is a subsidiary of the NCHH established in 2003 to assist clients in developing, managing, and evaluating projects that support healthier homes for all Americans. It includes the Healthy Housing Training Center, of which several HHP Extension programs are Training Partners. [See the new website.](#)

**GOT NEWS?** Send it to us! Share any news and resources of interest to other HHP partners!

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**Resources for Reaching and Teaching**

**NEW! Rebuild Healthy Homes: A Guide to Post-disaster Restoration for a Safe and Healthy Home**

is a FREE online PDF and mobile app with detailed "how-to" guidance for homeowners and volunteers. It introduces the 8 principles of HH, addresses damages from all major types of disasters; personal protection; how to assess damages and hazards, create a work plan, prep the site, clean-out, clean and decontaminate; and describes resilient and healthy home improvements to include during restoration. (Primary authors are our own HHP Extension specialists Claudette Hanks Reichel, LSU, and Michael Goldschmidt, MU.)

**Help Yourself to a Healthy Home: Protect Your Children’s Health**

is the core consumer education publication of the HHP, providing a highly illustrated, friendly read. It covers the full range of home health hazards, the concerns about each, questions to ask and -- best of all -- practical action steps to ensure a healthy home. It’s available as an [online pdf](#). Limited print copies may be available through HHP. FYI: The next edition is currently in development!

**Care for Your Air: A Guide to Indoor Air Quality**

This 7-page EPA brochure provides a quick and simple overview of some key indoor air pollutants including radon, secondhand smoke, asthma triggers, volatile organic compounds, molds and combustion pollutants. It unfolds into a poster that features action steps to improving indoor air. The print version is currently out of stock, but it's available online in [HTML](#) and [pdf](#).
The Inside Story: A Guide to Indoor Air Quality

EPA's most popular and comprehensive publication on IAQ, written in plain language for the consumer. While dated, it is still relevant and describes sources of air pollution in the home, corrective strategies, and specific measures for reducing pollutant levels. It covers all major sources of indoor pollution and includes a glossary and sources for more information. This guide is only available in HTML.

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Upcoming Events

National Lead and Healthy Housing Conference - New Orleans, LA Oct. 6-8, 2015
This conference features "how to" workshops dealing with childhood lead poisoning prevention, lead hazard control, and healthy and green housing. Includes "Don't Reinvent the Wheel" displays of educational and outreach materials various organizations have created to reach out to populations in their community.

EEBA Excellence in Building Conference & Expo - Denver, CO Oct. 6-8, 2015
The 2015 Energy and Environmental Building Alliance (EEBA) conference includes 50+ educational sessions covering every facet of building science, including a track on "Fresh Air" (IAQ). From a deeper understanding of green building and what's new in building science, to the latest news on innovations, participants will find leading experts, solutions and best practices.

Housing Education and Research Association (HERA) Conference - Springfield, IL Oct. 11-14, 2015
Celebrating Our Past, Planning for the Future is the theme of the next annual meeting of the professional association of housing researchers, teachers, Extension educators and other professionals. The event features presentations, posters, and keynote speakers in an atmosphere that fosters intellectual growth and development. Come, share and discuss the latest housing challenges!

This is a NE region conference of the Home Performance Coalition, formerly known as Affordable Comfort, Inc., featuring educational sessions by leading experts in weatherization and home performance (i.e. home energy upgrades that protect indoor air quality and durability).

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Stay connected!

Good Health Starts at Home builds upon the Healthy Homes initiatives and partnership of the United States Department of Agriculture-National Institute of Food and Agriculture (USDA-NIFA) and the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development-Office of Healthy Homes and lead Hazard Control (HUD) that address housing-based health and safety risks. Its network of state coordinators have partnered with state agencies, medical professionals, schools, and community groups to educate families on home health hazards.

Healthy Homes Highlights is produced by LSU AgCenter's LaHouse Resource Center. Authors: Claudette Hanks Reichel, Professor and Extension Housing Specialist, and Annemarie Resweber, LaHouse Graduate Assistant.