

idea corner

Keeping Scrapbooks

Remember when you were a kid and scrapbooks were “in”? I believe they still should be—particularly if you work in Extension. Administrators continue to clamor for concrete examples of your impact. This “proof” of your effectiveness is many times non-existent, or at best found in widely differing forms that aren’t in a cohesive form.

I've found that the bits and pieces describing what and how I'm doing fit nicely into a scrapbook that becomes an efficient tool to evaluate my work. Included in the scrapbook are: newspaper articles I've written, been quoted in, or were written about a program I did; letters of thanks from co-workers; and notes from clientele about material presented in newsletters or at schools.

Only the imagination limits what can be included in a scrapbook. Besides being tangible evidence of what you've done, regularly consulting the book can keep you up-to-date on how programs are progressing. It will also be a reminder to solicit letters of appreciation from your audience and other evidence of your efforts. They're not only good for your morale, but essential for evaluation.

So consider keeping a scrapbook. Pasting in proof of your accomplishments is a nice way to remind yourself on those inevitable down days that you and your job do make a difference.

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