



Where We've Been...



Pueblo County 4-H Agent Devin Engle leads youth in a food pollination exercise.

Field Trip Teaches Area Youth the Importance Of Agriculture

Agriculture is the second largest economic driver in Colorado, with more than \$7.7 billion in agricultural income receipts, according to the 2013 USDA-NASS Colorado Agriculture Overview. Yet, many Colorado residents have little to no understanding of where their food and fiber comes from or how it is produced. Furthermore, many people do not realize the level of technology and skills that are utilized in today's agricultural industry.

Guided by Pueblo County 4-H and STEM Enrichment Agents, a group of Extension Agents/Coordinators, 4-H volunteers, and Soil Conservation District representation from numerous counties (Pueblo, Fremont, Chaffee, Park, Custer, Teller, and Kit Carson) put together AgFest at the Colorado State Fairgrounds in April. The 3-day event targeted 5th and 6th graders with interactive lessons about agricultural products, careers, and the science, technology, engineering, & mathematics (STEM) aspects of agriculture. The group modeled their AgFest program after what Eastern plains Agents have done for the past four years; however, modifying some of the educational stations to better represent agriculture and natural resources in this region.



Pueblo County STEM/Enrichment Agent Anne Casey demonstrates how GPS knows where you are at.



Four hundred fifty youth and fifty-three adults from Pueblo, Fremont, and Chaffee counties attended the event. Through participation in eight interactive learning stations, they learned about embryology, wind power, fiber production, pollination, hydrology, forestry, dairy production, and geospatial technologies. Ways that these impact our daily lives was demonstrated to the youth, along with the importance that agriculture has for our society.

Some of the comments that we received back from teachers were:

- *All [activities] seemed very impactful.
- *All of the presentations were relevant and high interest to my kids!
- *Science standards were addressed in all of the activities.
- *The students *really* liked AgFest.
- *They [the students] understood the direct link with the water table and what we face each day with water usage.



Pueblo County Ag Agent Tom Laca visits with youth about how fibers produced on farms & ranches are made into clothing.

Xeriscape Garden Tour of Pueblo and Pueblo West



An educational and inspirational gardening event happened in Pueblo the first weekend of June. Ten gardens were open to the public, with name tags on plants and information about design and maintenance in the garden biographies and plant lists. Why, I can hear you thinking, did you miss the Xeriscape Garden Tour of Pueblo and Pueblo West?

The xeritour is a collaborative event, planned and supported by CSU Extension-Pueblo County, the Southeast Colorado Water Conservancy District (SECWCD), and Pueblo West Community Xeriscape Gardeners. Gardens are chosen based on beauty, but must conform to water-wise gardening principles. The goal is to provide inspiration and to demonstrate that even in the harsh conditions of Pueblo and Pueblo West, homeowners can have sustainable, colorful landscapes that are long on beauty but short on water bills and maintenance.

Gardens in Pueblo are open on Saturday and the event is planned by SECWCD staff and Colorado Master Gardener volunteers. The 2014 event featured the public garden at the Sangre de Cristo Art Center and 4 private gardens in older neighborhoods that had been remodeled from turf to colorful, waterwise landscapes surrounded by mature trees. The gardens reflected their owners interests, including beekeeping, art, and space for relaxation.



On Sunday, the tour featured gardens in Pueblo West, showcasing young landscapes with little turf, but gardens that support native arthropods, provide water for birds, and edibles for the homeowners. The public garden at Cattail Crossing looked the best it has in years, showing that when nature provides some spring rainfall, a low-water garden can truly shine. This garden was awarded the Plant Select Showcase Garden Award last June and is managed by the all-volunteer

Pueblo West Community Xeriscape Gardeners.

This was the 9th year for the tour, which is held the first weekend of June. A plant list was available for each garden, allowing visitors to note their favorite plants. Homeowners and Colorado Master Gardeners were available to answer questions and share information about garden design, maintenance, and plant characteristics. Local garden centers report that many customers shop using the xeritour plant lists, asking specifically for well adapted, low water plants to add to their landscapes. Mark your calendars for the 2015 Xeriscape Garden Tour in Pueblo on June 6 and Pueblo West on June 7. The tour is free and maps will be available on the CSU Extension website in May next year.



Where We're Going...



Campers make new friends.

Adventure Day Camp is Back!

This summer's Adventure Day Camp 2014 marks the eighth time Pueblo County Extension will lead 100 young campers, ages 6 – 11, through fun, hands-on activities, outdoor play and community service projects with the help of our senior 4-H and Pueblo Youth Naturally counselors-in-training. It is our desire to continue to serve the children in our community and provide a fun-filled, safe environment for them. We have staff knowledgeable in youth development and access to both local volunteers and the educational resources of Colorado State University.

Camp is scheduled for August 5th, 6th, and 7th. The first two days of camp will be held at the Colorado State Fairgrounds where the campers will learn about alternative energy, natural resources and conservation through a series of ten workshops that relate to our theme, "The Forces of Nature". We will also be collecting new baby items for foster parents who are often notified of their newborn's arrival with very little time to prepare. We will donate these items to the Pueblo Department of Social Services. For our community service project we will be creating activity kits for children with health issues that require hospitalization and need little projects they can work on in bed.



Camper enjoying a craft in 2012



Outdoor fun with the CSU-Pueblo ropes course

The third day of camp will be held at Pueblo City Park where the campers will enjoy the rides in the morning and visit with firefighters, the CSU-Pueblo ropes course and Mr. E, the Magician, in the afternoon. Campers pay a \$15.00 fee with scholarships available upon request. Camp includes meals, snacks, project supplies, and a camp T-shirt.

We are very pleased and appreciative of our community support for this event. We have been generously sponsored by the Pueblo Board of Water Works, Bechtel, UTC Aerospace Systems (formerly Goodrich Corporation), NASA, and Safeway.

Upcoming Events

Call 583-6566 or visit <http://pueblo.colostate.edu> for details.

Family and Consumer Programs

- Get Stronger Live Longer– Progressive Weight Training for beginners- Take the first step to reaching your personal health and wellness goals. Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays beginning May 5– July 25, 9:15-10:45 a.m.
- Food Safety Training for Cottage Food Producers– Aug. 20, 6:00-9:00 p.m.
- Preserving the Harvest– Food Preservation series– June– August.
- Easy Eating with Diabetes– dates TBD
- Home Beer Brewing– Aug. 23, 9:00-11:30 a.m.

Horticulture Programs

- Native Plant Master Course– Saturdays, Aug. 2, 9, 23 8:00 am-12:30 pm– Pueblo Mountain Park
- Saving Seeds with Penn Parmenter– Aug. 16, 9:00 am-noon
- Seed Library at the Rawling’s Branch of the Pueblo City County Library District– check out seeds for your garden and return collected seeds in the fall.

4-H/Youth Development

- Adventure Day Camp– Aug 5, 6, 7, 9:00 am-3:30 pm
- State Fair– Aug. 22-Sept. 1, CO State Fairgrounds

EFNEP/SNAP-ed

- Nutrition classes– Ongoing-call for schedule

Ag/Range/Natural Recourses

- Site visits and consultations– Ongoing, upon request

Pueblo Youth Naturally

- Summer Activities– Teen Counselors-in-Training planned the summer schedule of activities. Call for more information.

Congratulations!

Local Extension Efforts Recognized

The Western Extension and Research Directors (representing the 17 western states) have announced their 2014 Awards of Excellence. They have awarded 13 programs from across those 17 states with recognition awards in 2014. Two of those 13 programs have team members in the Pueblo County Extension office.

We are honored to recognize that Linda McMulkin was part of the CSUE team receiving the State Program Award for working with the Native Plant Master® Program. Congratulations to Linda!

Also, the Western Extension and Research Directors acknowledged the original CSUE AgFest Team as a Regional Qualifying Program for their four years of delivering agricultural STEM knowledge to 5th & 6th graders across Eastern Colorado. Anne Casey & Michael Fisher were members of that team. Congratulations to Anne & Michael!



Colorado State University Extension– Pueblo County
701 Court Street, Suite C
Pueblo, CO 81003
719-583-6566
<http://pueblo.colostate.edu>
<https://www.facebook.com/CSUEExtensionPueblo>

Extension programs are available to all without discrimination. If you have a disability for which you seek an accommodation, please notify CSU Extension at 719-583-6566 at least five (5) business days in advance of the event.
Colorado State University Extension, U.S. Department of Agriculture and Colorado counties cooperating.