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# Where We've Been...



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## Pueblo County Learns Personal Poultry Production By Tom Laca, Extension Agent, Small Acreage/Range/ Natural Resource Management

Backyard chicken production is booming across the country. The local food movement is expanding and with that comes more and more people desiring to raise their own food. Chickens, primarily for the purpose of fresh eggs, are seen by many as an easy way to raise your own food without requiring a large space. Partnering with the Pueblo City-County Library district and the

Pueblo West Library, Tom Laca and Lois Illick of CSU Extension presented a class on raising chickens.

Eighteen would be and present chicken owners were in attendance. The first item of business was gaining an understanding of who was attending the class and what were their poultry interests. Fifty percent of those present rated their knowledge of raising chickens as none to very little. Only two currently had chickens while the remainder had a desire to start raising chickens for egg production. Local laws and zoning ordinances were presented to ensure an understanding of who could and could not keep chickens and how many they are allowed. Next, were discussions about general terminology and where to buy chicks. Breed differences were explained and what breeds lay brown eggs versus white eggs. The housing of chickens from hatching to mature birds was detailed to ensure proper shelter. Feed and water needs were also discussed. Attendees learned about predators of chickens and eggs, as well as how to limit the possibilities of the animals getting to their chickens. A major portion of the class was how to handle the waste that comes from raising an animal. Composting the manure and incorporating it into the garden was a popular topic of discussion.

Finally, a basic lesson on common health problems was presented to the class. While on the topic of health, Lois Illick (FCS Agent) presented an egg handling component to help ensure the safety of the food that they would be raising. At the end of the class the participants were polled as to their likelihood of raising chickens with over 80 percent stating that they would most likely raise chickens. As the trend to raise backyard chickens continues to grow, it is imperative that sound research based education is available in order to ensure successful, healthy and humane production of our food.



<https://www.flickr.com/photos/emilygoodstein/>



## **Pueblo Youth Naturally Summer Camps Teach Outdoor Skills By Linda McMulkin, PYN Coordinator**

Pueblo Youth Naturally held three, 3-day summer day camps in July, 2014. These camps attracted 81 middle and high school students and offered opportunities to learn new skills and make new friends.

Locations for the 2014 summer activities included the Pueblo Mountain Park, Great Sand Dunes National Park, and the kayak course on the Arkansas River in Pueblo. Activities included rock climbing with staff from the Mountain Park Environmental Center, water safety, kayaking and boogie boarding with the CSU Pueblo Outdoor Pursuits staff, a geocaching course developed by CSU Extension STEM agent Anne Casey, team building activities, and a “choose your own adventure” day at the Dunes.



Pueblo Youth Naturally is a county funded program that introduces middle-school youth to local recreation opportunities, natural resource careers, life skills, the ecology of Colorado, and environmental issues facing our state. The program is offered to all Pueblo County middle school students through summer day-camps and on selected Saturdays during the school year. Twelve high school students who participated while in middle school serve as volunteer counselors, assisting the county-paid staff present and supervise activities and mentoring the younger students. Two CSU Extension staff and five part time employees provide transportation, programs, and supervision for the students.



New middle school members will be invited to join the school year program (offered on selected Saturdays from October to April) and new 9<sup>th</sup> graders have the opportunity to apply for a position as a counselor-in-training. Thanks to Pueblo County for funding the Pueblo Youth Naturally program, the staff and volunteers who assist with the summer camps, CSU Pueblo’s Outdoor Pursuits program, the

Mountain Park Environmental Center, and the National Park Service for helping make the 2014 PYN summer camps a great success.

## **Pueblo County 4-H Members Succeed at Colorado State Fair By Devin Engle, Extension Agent 4-H & Youth Development**

The main mission of the 4-H Youth Development program is life skill development and one of the main ways our members develop those skills is by working on a 4-H project. Completing a 4-H project is no easy task.



Members often put hours upon hours over the course of an entire year into their projects. In addition, they are required to complete community service and public speaking activities, and to engage in their club’s meetings and leadership activities.

Many of our members challenged themselves to compete with their projects – measuring their abilities against the standards of judges and their peers. This year Pueblo County 4-H members did an outstanding job with their projects, and many of them earned top honors at the Colorado State Fair.

Pueblo County had a number of Grand Champions at the 2014 Colorado State Fair: Rocco Bottini (woodworking), Clara McClure (Artistic Clothing), Nick Johnston (Shooting Sports), Lacey McCurry (Livestock, Market Goat), Jerica Huscher (Livestock, Market Poultry), Jordan Cruz (Cake Decorating Contest), Christina Shearer (Theatrical), Natalie Blood (Dog Show, Advanced Obedience), Kelsey Darnell (Dog Show, Best In Show). Other members placed well in the Horse Show, and six members earned various other Reserve Grand Champion honors.

The outstanding successes of our 4-H members are evidence of the difference 4-H is making in their lives. It is also a testament to the hard work and dedication of our 4-H volunteers who strive to teach, challenge and support our 4-Hers in all they do.

# Where We're Going...

## 4-H Open Enrollment

By Marnie Leinberger, Program Assistant 4-H & Youth Development

Pueblo County 4-H is gearing up for a new year! We'll start enrolling members on October 15. Kids who are aged 8-18 years old can join, and younger kids, ages 5-7 can be "Cloverbuds," a non-competitive project that introduces kids to 4-H.

Youth can participate in a wide range of projects – everything from Artistic Clothing to Woodworking (and most things in-between). 4-H teaches leadership, citizenship and life skills through various projects and activities throughout the year. Members work on fun projects, discover new ideas, learn new skills, participate in meetings and other activities, provide educational demonstrations and may become eligible for scholarships.

But it's not all work and no play! Youth also make new friends, go to fairs, camps and picnics and are eligible for trips all over Colorado and the U.S.

If you are interested in having your child join 4-H, find us on the web at <http://pueblo.colostate.edu/4hy/4hy.shtml> or call us at 719-583-6566.



## School Enrichment Programs through Pueblo County Extension

By Anne Casey, Extension Agent 4-H and Youth Development

CSU Extension-Pueblo County works with public schools, libraries and other community partners in the county to provide innovative academic enrichment programs. We offer a variety of STEM programs, including robotics, rocketry, geospatial technology, food science, solar studies and film-making, among others. Participating children range in age from 5 to 18. Our programs complement the Colorado Common Core academic standards and can be tailored to the needs of specific classroom. We work with teachers to provide the enrichment that best supports their learning goals.

Program delivery can take place

either in-school or after school. Following a busy summer that included Adventure Day Camp, we have begun our school enrichment programs at Pueblo Academy of Arts with Food Science and Robotics. Risley International Academy of Innovation will be continuing their work this year on transforming their entrance area landscaping from lawn to native wildflowers, shrubs and trees to support the native insects, birds and reptiles in a land management style called "wildscaping". We will also be celebrating National Youth Science Day in lots of schools during the month of October which is National 4-H month.



## Upcoming Events

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

### Family and Consumer Programs

- Guide to Living Gluten-Free - Oct. 22, 6:00-8:00 p.m. \$10.00
- Food Safety Training for CO Cottage Food Producers, Oct. 28, 6:00-9:00 p.m. \$20.00
- Rock Around the “Crock” - Nov. 4, 6:00-8:00 p.m. \$10.00
- Bake with an “Altitude” - Dec. 10, 6:00-8:00 p.m. \$10.00
- Smart Choice© Health Insurance - Tools for decision making– dates TBD

### Horticulture Programs

- Composting Basics - Oct. 7, 6:00-9:00 p.m. \$15.00
- Enrollment for 2015 Colorado Master Gardener begins Oct. 1.

### 4-H/Youth Development

- Enrollment Begins October 1 for the 2014-2015 4-H Year
- Bells of Christmas Craft Sale - December 6 & 7 - Creative Arts Building– State Fair Grounds

### EFNEP/SNAP-ed

- Nutrition classes - Ongoing-call for schedule

### Ag/Range/Natural Recourses

- Site visits and consultations - Ongoing, upon request
- Fall Livestock Health Considerations - TBA
- Livestock and Local Markets - TBA

### Pueblo Youth Naturally

- 2014-2015 School Year Activities Scheduled. \$25.00
    - October—Wolf Sanctuary & Fall Color Hike
    - November—Colorado Springs
    - January—Denver Museum of Nature & Science
    - February—Tech for Teens
    - March—Snow Day at Pueblo Mountain Park
    - April—Volcanoes & Coal Mines
- Call for actual dates and detailed information

*Congratulations!*

## Local Extension Efforts Recognized

At the Annual SNAP-Ed/EFNEP In-service training held in Fort Collins, Mary Esther Vigil, Pueblo County SNAP-Ed Educator received two awards: Highest Number of Teaching Visits per FTE in FY13 and Best Participant Behavior Change Outcomes in FY13 for Physical Activity. Mary Esther continually surpasses her goals in reaching low-income Pueblo County individuals and families resulting in healthier lifestyles for more Puebloans.

The Colorado State University-Extension Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program - Education (CSU-E SNAP-Ed) teaches participants:

- nutrition fundamentals;
- how to make healthier food choices for their families;
- how to be more physically active;
- how to make nutritious recipes; and
- how to stretch their food dollars.

This leads to savings for the community in terms of lowered health care (Medicare) and public assistance costs. An increase in knowledge and self-confidence about nutrition, physical activity and living a healthy lifestyle among participants also leads to an increase in pride of community members and stronger and healthier neighborhoods.



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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.