

ROLE AND RELATIONSHIPS

Colorado State University Extension (CSUE) is a collaborative relationship between Pueblo County, the Colorado State University and the USDA. The Extension **mission** is to “Provide research-based information and education in response to local, state, and national issues, affecting individuals, youth, families, agricultural enterprises, and communities”. Further, the **vision** for Extension is “Extension is the front door to Colorado State University providing the extensive knowledge, research capabilities and resources of this premier land-grant university to Coloradans from all walks of life. Extension is dedicated to serving current and future needs of Coloradans by providing educational information and programs that safeguard health, increase livelihood, and enhance well being.” The mission and vision of Extension support the objectives of Pueblo County, which are: Exceptional customer service; Support and empowerment of competent committed employees; Fiscal success and accountability and Support for a shared community vision.

This report highlights the major accomplishments of Colorado State University Extension Pueblo County for the previous year:

4-H and Youth Development, Family and Consumer Science programs, Green Growth in Pueblo & Colorado Master Gardeners, EFNEP Nutrition, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Education (SNAP-Ed), and Range and Natural Resources Education



4-H AND YOUTH DEVELOPMENT IN PUEBLO COUNTY

Building Today's Youth...and Tomorrow's Leaders



4-H is a community of young people across America learning leadership, citizenship and life skills.

Personnel – Carol Kuhns, Anne Casey (retired), Devin Engle, and Marnie Leinberger

4-H members across the nation are responding to challenges every day in their communities and their world. With a rich history and an expansive network reaching every corner of the country, 4-H is the nation's largest youth development organization. More than 6 million 4-H youth in

urban neighborhoods, suburban schoolyards and rural farming communities stand out among their peers: building revolutionary opportunities and implementing community-wide change at an early age.

In 2014-2015, the Pueblo County 4-H program had 390 club members and 137 registered and trained volunteers. Pueblo had 13 organized 4-H clubs. We reached 623 youth through outreach programs in cooperation with Pueblo School District 60, District 70, and the public library. We also reached 339 members through day camp programs.

In August 2015, Anne Casey, 4-H Youth Development Agent for School Enrichment and Afterschool programs resigned. Anne was an expert in STEM programming for youth, first serving at the Regional STEM Specialist for Southern Colorado from June 2010 to May 2013 before joining Pueblo County in June 2013. Anne built a demand for educational youth programming in the areas of astronomy, robotics, wildscaping/gardening and geospatial technology among others. Anne is missed by co-workers, colleagues, educators and the youth.

4-H STEM Program

In 2015, students at the Pueblo Academy of Art explored the geometry of 2D and 3D figures through the lost art of sewing. This class grew from



12 girls and one boy in its first offering during the second grading period to a more balanced 8 girls and 7 boys in its second offering. Projects ranged from the practical, such as learning how to reattach a lost button, to the artistic, as

showcased in the creative stitch sampler pieces they made to practice five different hand-sewing stitches.

Five sewing machines were purchased from funds

received through a grant from the 4-H National Mentoring Program.

For most of the students, this was their first experience with sewing machines. Reactions included delight with their ease and speed, fear of punctured fingers, and frustration with jammed machines.

Most of the fabric used in this class came from upcycled t-shirts

found in the back of drawers at home and a

generous contribution of fabric scraps from Janska,

a Colorado Springs fleece-ware company. Everyone was able to complete a draw-string backpack.

Students also made hats and mittens. Their final

project was to create the pattern pieces for a design of their own.



“Lights, camera, action!” - Those were the words patrons of the Pueblo City County Library District heard in the summer of 2015 as children in the Teen and Tween programs explored special effects movie-making with green screen technology and stop motion animation. Anne presented both programs in each of the seven PCCLD libraries



reaching nearly 100 children in all.

Teens used green screen technology to create video shorts of dinosaur attacks and flying and

disappearing teens. The younger Tweens created animated scenes using Play-doh, plastic animals, wooden blocks and pom-poms to make erupting volcanoes, wildlife stampedes, block towers that built themselves and pom-pom ballets. These children will never look at a movie the same armed with the knowledge they learned about special effects from CSUE-Pueblo County 4-H STEM program through the PCCLD summer library programs!

In August, 99 youth (non-4-H members) ages six to 11 attended Adventure Day Camp. They engaged in fun, hands-on activities, outdoor play and community service projects with the help of 40 senior 4-H and Pueblo Youth Naturally counselors. The theme of the camp was “State of Matter – Solid, Liquid, Gas.”

4-H Camp

For over 40 years, junior and intermediate 4-H youth have been attending Pueblo County 4-H Camp. In 2015, 12 senior 4-H members were counselors for the 28 youth participants at the camp held in Beulah at the Mountain Park Environmental

Center. This amazing facility allows us to provide the three-day, two-night camp experience where



youth enjoy educational workshops and outdoor activities such as capture the flag, archery, and shelter building. It's a time for all of the youth in our program to come together and celebrate their 4-H experience together!

IFYE – International 4-H Youth Exchange



For the first time in over twenty years, a Pueblo County 4-H alum was selected to participate in the International 4-H Youth Exchange

program. Jennifer Johnston, who joined 4-H at the age of eight and currently serves as a twenty-three year old Pueblo County 4-H volunteer, was one of two delegates selected to participate in the program in 2015. She departed in mid-June for the United Kingdom where she spent three months, and then she moved on to Switzerland for three months, returning home to Pueblo in December.

The motto of the program is “Peace Through Understanding.” IFYE delegates are members who have aged out of the traditional 4-H program and have the opportunity to travel to Africa, Asia, Australia, Eastern Europe, Latin America, or Western Europe. They participate in the day-to-day family life of their host families and upon return must share their experience throughout Colorado. The program is paid for by the Colorado 4-H Foundation.

Upon her return, Jennifer said, “I made some really incredible relationships. My host families took me to visit places that were important to them, including national monuments, local villages, and out-of-the-way locations no ordinary tourist would get to see. There were many times I felt tired and frustrated, but I reminded myself that this opportunity was once in a lifetime, saying ‘no’ would be such a regrettable waste. The greatest lesson was the ability to find purpose in everything I did. To me, it wasn’t always about getting things perfectly right but being there and engaged in the moment.”

Since her return, Jennifer has shared her experience with hundreds of students at their District 60 and 70 schools and then went on the road. She is currently touring the state, sharing her experience with schools and 4-H programs throughout Colorado. Jennifer will begin a master’s degree in youth development this fall with hopes of one day becoming a 4-H agent.

Pueblo County Fair and Showcase Sale

This year we had 257 individual youth that participated in the Pueblo County Fair which was held July 5-12, 2015 on the Colorado State Fairgrounds. Members exhibited all sorts of projects from livestock and horses to dogs, foods and shooting sports. A total of 91 animals sold in the 2015 Showcase Sale. The auction brought in \$152,325.00 in premiums from area businesses and individuals. Members, buyers, volunteers and CSU Extension office staff teamed up to make this the most successful 4-H/FFA Showcase Sale to date.



4-H Youth Leadership Society

Started in the fall of 2013, the Pueblo County 4-H Youth Leadership Society has continued to provide top-notch leadership opportunities for youth ages 13 to 18. More than 20 4-H members consistently participated in 2015. Driven by the youth, sub-committees met as often as they needed at various locations around the county with adult volunteers to guide them. Members worked in these small teams to identify needs within their community and then address them. For example, when the youth heard that the Child Advocacy Center was in need of financial donations, they coordinated “Art 4-Heart,” a youth art show and sale with all proceeds benefiting the CAC. Now in its third year, the youth board has become quite knowledgeable about the process of planning and coordinating an art show at an art gallery, including organizing the art, pricing the art, promoting the event, designing the graphics, and recognizing talent with awards. The event gets better each year! The Leadership Society has also been a driving force behind improved promotion of 4-H during National 4-H Week. The week now includes an annual “State of 4-H” presentation to the Pueblo County Board of Commissioners and a display in the Pueblo County Courthouse rotunda. For the first time in many years, this also included an official BOCC proclamation for National 4-H Week. Additionally the group added fun events to the Pueblo County Fair in 2015 including barn Olympics, a water fight, a movie night, and dance lessons.

Pueblo County 4-H Globetrotters attend Citizenship Washington Focus

In June of 2015, after two years of fundraising, twenty-one youth from Pueblo County and four 4-H volunteers attended the Citizenship Washington Focus Conference at the National 4-H Center in Chevy Chase, MD. This event is a week-long 4-H citizenship program for youth ages 14 to 19 that provides an opportunity for youth to get a behind-the-scenes look at our nation's capital and the chance to meet members of Congress. Youth also get to hear motivational speakers and participate in educational workshops that increase their commitment to citizen involvement while building skills and friendships with youth from around the country. While in Washington DC, the Pueblo County 4-H youth visited Mount Vernon, Arlington National Cemetery, and several Smithsonian museums. They also toured various Presidential and war monuments and memorials, including a Night Tour of the capital.

National 4-H Conference



While we have many 4-Hers that attend the Citizenship Washington Focus conference, for the first time in several years we had 4-H

members interested in attending the National 4-H Conference. This conference is unique in that delegates do more than just learn about the political process and our nation's capitol – they actually work in it. Together the youth work in roundtable groups to prepare a briefing. At the conclusion of the week-long conference, the groups present their briefing to federal officials around Washington DC. To help them prepare for this experience, the youth participate in intense skill building workshops. They also get a little bit of downtime to enjoy some cultural experiences and make friends with youth from around the country. We were honored to have not one, but two delegates selected from Pueblo County to participate in this unique experience in April 2015. Both Clara McClure and Nick Johnston returned from the trip commenting that it was the best 4-H experience of their lives!

National 4-H Congress

Members who win Senior Grand Champion at the Colorado State Fair in the exhibit contest are awarded the opportunity to attend National 4-H

Congress in Atlanta, Georgia. Out of the more than three-hundred 4-H members from around the state who competed in the Shooting Sports exhibit contest, Pueblo County 4-H member Christina Shearer won Senior Grand Champion with her Outdoor Skills display. Christina's trip to Atlanta for the National 4-H Congress in November was funded by both the Colorado State 4-H Foundation and the Pueblo County 4-H Foundation. This was the third year in a row that a Pueblo County 4-H youth has won the most competitive 4-H exhibit contest, Shooting Sports, at the Colorado State Fair and earned a trip to National 4-H Congress because of it! The conference includes 1,000 delegates from throughout the United States who come together to participate in a mix of educational, service and cultural experiences.

In addition to Christina, Pueblo County 4-H member Nick Johnston was in attendance at the 2015 National 4-H Congress; however, he

played a different role. Nick was one of eight youth from around the United States selected to serve on the 94th annual National 4-H Congress Design Team. This was an

enormous honor! Nick was inspired to apply for the design team intern position after attending National 4-H Congress in 2014 as a delegate. After being selected in early 2015, Nick traveled to Atlanta in February 2015 to meet his teammates and attend a planning workshop. Over the course of the next several months, Nick participated in many conference calls and planning activities. After nearly a year of planning, Nick and his team put on an outstanding 94th Congress. He commented at the conclusion of his experience that "Serving on the National Congress Design Team showed me firsthand how groups, despite their cultural backgrounds, can accomplish incredible things when they come together and collaborate with one goal."



National Western 4-H Roundup

In January 2015, six youth from the Pueblo County 4-H Leadership Society competed at the National Western 4-H Roundup in Denver, CO in the Parliamentary Procedure, Fashion Revue and Horse Demonstration categories. The Parliamentary Procedure Team placed second overall, earning the

Reserve Grand Champion title. Clara McClure placed fourth overall in the Fashion Revue competition, and Rebecca Lane placed fourth overall in Horse Demonstration.

In June 2015, the four member Consumer Decision Making team won Grand Champion at the Colorado State 4-H Conference, qualifying to compete at the January 2016 National Western 4-H Roundup. While they didn't place in the top ten in this nation-wide competition, they did have a great time testing their skills and meeting youth from around the country.

Youth Conferences and Leadership Opportunities

Pueblo County 4-H members have been extremely active at the district and state level this year. We had 128 youth attendees at 4-H conferences in 2015 including Leadership Development Conference in Denver, Youth Fest in Larkspur, District Retreat in Nathrop/Buena Vista area, State 4-H Conference at CSU Fort Collins, Colorado Leadership Conference in Glenwood Springs, and Dare To Be You Camp in Pueblo. This number is up from 59 participants in 2013 and 87



participants in 2014. These numbers continue to grow due to the excitement of our youth and the financial support from

the local Pueblo County 4-H Foundation. At these conferences members have enjoyed meeting 4-Hers from around the state, participating in fun activities and most of all, boosting their life skill development. In addition, for the first time in a few years we had a youth serve on the Colorado State 4-H Officer Team. Rebecca Lane was elected in March 2014 and served from June 2014 through June 2015.

Officer Training

In January 2015, Pueblo County and Las Animas County teamed together to offer 102 youth the opportunity to learn about parliamentary procedure and about offices they were elected to represent in



their 4-H clubs. Separate workshops were done for those who had been elected as President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and Reporters. Games were played to help the youth learn how to make motions, how to run a meeting, and proper procedures in parliamentary procedure. We provided lunch for them, and then they enjoyed an afternoon of bowling and fun.

Working With Youth With Differences

In May 2015, Dawn Roberge, Elementary School Teacher and Specialist of Autism in Pueblo District 70, was invited to speak at the Parent/Leader Group Meeting. Dawn is a past 4-H alumni who works daily with special needs youth and also grew up in the 4-H program. She spoke to 27 adults and older teens on how to work with youth with special needs in their clubs. She explained different things about how to go about doing record books, demonstrations, and hands-on learning activities. Because of her introspect into the 4-H program, she was able to provide those present with valuable information about working with youth with differences.

Pueblo County 4-H Foundation

In the calendar year 2015 we received funding from the Pueblo County 4-H Foundation in the amount of \$13,450 for camps and conferences, plus an additional \$1,000 for Achievement Night. Furthermore, the Pueblo County 4-H Foundation provided \$2,750 in college scholarships to graduating Pueblo County 4-H youth. At the conclusion of 2015, the Foundation approved a 2016 calendar year budget of \$17,925. We truly appreciate the support of the Foundation and all that they do for our members!



FAMILY & CONSUMER SCIENCES PROGRAMS

Personnel – Lois Illick and Christine Pauletich

The Colorado State University Extension Family and Consumer Science Agent (FCS), Lois Illick, integrates research-based information from the University into a variety of educational formats that help families and individuals succeed throughout the life cycle. Lois offers information to the public through programs, meetings, individual appointments, web site links, and telephone consultations. She also serves as a content resource for other counties in the region that do not have an FCS agent.

In 2015 Lois offered information in the following content areas: retail food safety training, consumer food safety and preservation, health and wellness, osteoporosis prevention and family issues.

Lois presented the Food Safety



Training for Colorado Cottage Food Producers classes to 72 people interested in

bringing their home-made food products to market. This training, offered by CSU Extension- Pueblo County, provided the food safety training required by the Colorado Cottage Food Act.

Participants learned foods that are permissible in the Cottage Foods Act, ingredient labeling requirements, as well as basic food safety for a home business.

In 2015, Lois developed the World Cultures Through Food classes. This was a new concept in teaching food and nutrition. Participants cooked and shared a meal using induction hot plates while learning the food culture of different countries from around the world. 98 participants prepared meals based on the cuisines of China,



Germany, India, Romania, Russia, or Sweden as well as America (US Southern and Pennsylvania Dutch cuisine).

In nutrition and wellness, the osteoporosis classes continue to be offered in the county. The pre-post test comparisons for Get Strong Live Longer (osteoporosis prevention) continue to show an increase in flexibility and balance as well as enjoyment of exercising with other people of the same general age. The program served 30



participants over the year, and volunteers contributed 150 hours to maintain the program.

With more interest in farm-to-table foods, interest in home food preservation has grown. Lois presented classes on water bath and pressure canning, pickling, fermenting, freezing and dehydrating, as well as classes on jams and jelly and salsa making. Participants learned the importance of safe food handling and step by step processes to safely can quality products.



Nutrition News – a newsletter for the Housing and Human Services Commodity Foods program – continues to be sent monthly. The newsletter is provided to the 7000+ commodities food program participants. It focuses on nutrition and food safety and often encourages increasing physical activity.

FCS has become more involved in community issues such as Sustainable Pueblo and Fountain Creek Water Shed District – Citizen's Advisory Group and the subcommittee on Educational Outreach. Lois also represents CSU Extension on the Environmental Policy Advisory Committee – subcommittee of PACOG. With help from Christine, there

is now an FCS Facebook page and an email listserv for small articles and class announcements. Lois does technical assistance for consumers through telephone calls on topics ranging from stain removal to

recipe substitutions to wood floor maintenance and bed bug removal. Lois provides research-based responses or may make referrals to other agencies in the county.

The past year has seen more inter-departmental work between FCS and 4-H and Master Gardeners. More is expected in 2016.



GREEN GROWTH IN PUEBLO

Personnel – Sherie Caffey, Linda McMulkin (retired), Elizabeth Catt (retired) and Carolyn Valdez



Horticulture

The horticulture staff at CSU Extension-Pueblo County provides a variety of services to local homeowners, including advice on plant selection and maintenance, insects, diseases, irrigation, and other landscape challenges. In response to the weather we had in the winter and early spring, staff responded and provided answers to over 4,000 gardening questions in 2015.

The CSU Extension horticulture staff were also a part of Colorado Master Volunteer Forest Steward Training in Pueblo County. Staff partnered with the Colorado State Forest



Service, La Junta District, and City of Pueblo Parks Department, to teach 19 participants about concepts of Community Forestry, tree physiology, insects and diseases, biotic and abiotic disorders, fruit tree varieties and care, drip irrigation for trees and conservation plantings. Upon completion of the 36-hour course, and volunteering the equivalent number of hours, they became Master Volunteer Forest Stewards. These volunteers assist the Colorado State Forest Service in their community. This year horticulture staff and Colorado Master Gardener volunteers held free educational seminars at libraries throughout Pueblo County. These

seminars were offered during the week and on Saturdays and covered a wide array of topics. The All Pueblo Grows Seed Lending Library, the Colorado Master Gardeners, and the horticulture staff partnered to hold community seed exchanges several times throughout the year at Rawlings library.

In addition to working directly with the public, we provide articles to the Pueblo Chieftain, publish a quarterly gardening newsletter, *From the Ground Up*, and manage more than 60 volunteers. We worked closely with other CSU Extension staff and local agencies to provide education at the Pueblo Home and Garden Show, the Western Landscape Symposium, the Xeriscape Garden Tour, the Tree Festival at City Park, plant sales at the Pueblo Nature and Raptor Center and the Pueblo Zoo, and the Chile and Frijoles Festival. In 2015, CSU

Extension staff and volunteers provided classes and clinics to a wide variety of groups, including youth



at Ag Fest, students at Rye Elementary, youth at Eagle Day, Colorado Native Plant Society field trips, and in formal classroom training at the Pueblo Zoo, CSU Extension, and the Southeastern Colorado Water Conservancy District.

Colorado Master Gardeners



Colorado Master Gardener volunteers become more knowledgeable gardeners by taking a series of gardening classes, and then apply their knowledge by assisting local homeowners with gardening questions. CMGs extend the reach of the local CSU Extension office during their volunteer hours. Colorado Master Gardeners in Pueblo County reported 538 one-to-one and over 4,000 indirect contacts during 2015. A total of 48 continuing and apprentice Colorado Master Gardeners in Pueblo County volunteered 3,289 hours helping residents landscape and garden more successfully.

CMGs served Pueblo County residents through information booths, by answering gardening questions in the CSU Extension office, via phone and email, at the Midtown Farmers' Market, school and community gardens, the Pueblo Home and Garden Show, the Zootastic Plant Sale, and the Xeriscape Tour of Pueblo and Pueblo West. Many CMGs volunteer at demonstration gardens in Pueblo County, the Pueblo Zoo, the Southeastern Colorado Water Conservancy District Xeriscape Demonstration Garden, and the Cattail Crossings Demonstration Garden in Pueblo West.

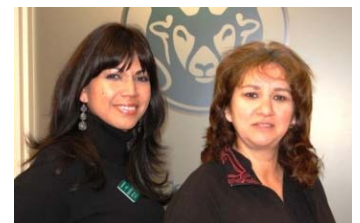
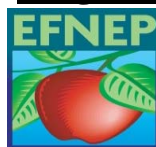
Continuing Colorado Master Gardeners are required to complete at least 12 additional hours of continuing education each year. They received 664 hours of continuing education by attending Advanced Diagnostic classes through Colorado State University, Yard and Garden classes at CSU Extension-Pueblo County, and workshops offered by the Pueblo Zoo, the Colorado Native Plant Society, the Nature and Raptor Center, and Pikes Peak Urban Gardens.



In 2015, both the Volunteer Coordinator and the Horticulture Coordinator left to pursue other opportunities and a full-time Horticulture Coordinator was hired in early December.



Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program



Personnel – Charlene Trujillo, Yolanda Montoya, Josie Gonzales, Mary Esther Vigil, Michael Lucero and Christine Pauletich

The USDA grant-funded Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP) under the supervision of the Nutrition Programs Supervisor continue to provide nutrition, physical activity, and resource management education to low resource families and youth across Pueblo County. The emphasis is on basic nutrition, food resource management, “stretching their food dollar”, keeping their food safe and physical activity. Each adult



and teen class series is 8 to 11 weeks long to ensure behavior change occurs with the programs participants. Each class consists of nutrition education, physical activity, and food preparation skills. The participants also receive an enhancement (i.e. food thermometer, shopping lists, etc.) related to each lesson to give the participants the tools needed to practice the behavior taught during the lessons. The EFNEP program is offered in both English and Spanish.

Impact on Pueblo County:

- Families - 572 participants enrolled in EFNEP & 1763 family members were reached
- Volunteers - 148 volunteers contributed 2,168 hours
- Classes - 747 classes were taught
- Graduates: - 443 participants graduated from EFNEP completing at least six lessons
- Youth - 641 youth received EFNEP classes

EFNEP has built numerous strong relationships within community. Some of these key partnerships include: WIC, Pueblo County Department of Social Services, Pueblo Community Health Center, El Pueblo Boys & Girls Ranch, Catholic Charities, Fire for the Nations family resource center, multiple food banks, and schools in school districts 60 and 70. These schools include Morton, Eva Baca, Highland Park, Columbine, Bessemer, Bradford, Heritage, Liberty Point, and Avondale Elementary schools. EFNEP will continue to have great success because of these strong partners in the community.



AG & NATURAL RESOURCES EDUCATION

Personnel – Tom Laca, MJ Fisher and Carolyn Valdez

The Ag and Natural Resources Program staff strives to provide quality research based education to land users and agricultural producers. This education is provided in a number of ways including hands-on tours, classroom and individual contacts. The Ag and Natural Resources staff is continually seeking new ways to reach audiences to bring them the latest information and increase the effectiveness of the programs.

2015 provided many educational opportunities for those interested in agriculture and natural resources. We offered a beginning beekeeping

class that was so popular we had to add a second class in order to accommodate all those that wished to attend. Each class took place over two sessions where equipment needs and use were discussed in the first session. The second session included bee biology and management of bees to afford them the highest chances for success. In all 43 people attended the classes with all learning about the importance of pollinators, many have gone on to successfully keep bees. Keeping with the spirit of home and small scale production we also offered a Backyard Poultry class for those interested in

raising chickens for eggs. The class is offered in the spring as the baby chicks begin to arrive and be offered for sale in the



local feed stores. The goal is to provide the knowledge and skills needed to properly feed, house and care for a chicken in order to gain a return of fresh eggs. This class has been offered for the past three springs with over 60 people attending. Not only have we provided for better and safer



food production by many, we have also provided better care for our animals.

Another popular program we held was the Plants of Pueblo County Range Walk. During this program 50 plus participants were treated to a tour of several locations in the county to explore the diversity



of plant life found in our area. We began in the eastern part of the county and then went to the Pueblo Mountain Park before finishing at a ranch in the foothills. This class was accomplished in partnership with the local NRCS office, Turkey Creek Conservation District, South Pueblo County Conservation District, CSU Extension Horticulture team and the Native Plant Master Program. Participants were able to view plants in their native environment as well as discuss the value of the plants in the ecosystem. Rangeland monitoring and condition as well as the effects of grazing and human intervention on the plant community were discussed to aid in the understanding of how grasslands are managed. Having representation on the planning committee for the Arkansas River Basin Water Forum we helped bring “The Age of Water” to Pueblo during late April. Several agencies in the Arkansas River Valley collaborated to make the three-day event a success, including Colorado State University

Extension-Pueblo County. The forum opened with a dinner and program for elected officials and policy makers within the water realm. More than one hundred twenty decision-makers and leaders were in attendance for the opening event. The following day, the open forum began with more than one hundred fifty people in attendance. Some of the topics covered included the Arkansas River Basin water plan, problems with Fountain Creek, the history of flooding on Fountain Creek, recreational issues for the Arkansas River, climate forecasting for the valley, flood forecasting by the National Weather Service, and a hydrology 101 lesson from the State Engineers office. Multiple agencies also teamed



together to provide attendees with a tour opportunity below the Pueblo Reservoir dam and at the State Fish Hatchery located below the dam.

While doing a range assessment for a client, a small outbreak of Mormon Crickets was discovered in the county. At this time several calls began to come in about the crickets and grasshoppers that seemed to



have a high population. In response to these concerns a

meeting was held to provide information on their concerns and also control measures that could be taken to mitigate the current issue. Experts from the USDA were identified and brought down to provide the most current and applicable information to the participants. Being able and willing to respond as issues arise is an important function of the Ag and Natural resources team. Here in Pueblo County we are known for our Green Chile’s. In order to help others learn more about the Pueblo Chile and its production we provided a class on how to make a Chile Ristra. Partnering with 12 of the local Chile growers, enough Chile was donated to host the 61 people that desired to learn about making a Ristra. The participants first learned about the Pueblo Chile Growers Association and the production of Chile in the county. They then had the opportunity to



create a Ristra of their own in which they could take home to use for decoration or dry to make chili powder. Tom Laca and Michael Fisher, from the Pueblo County Extension office, partnered with the Western Heritage Foundation to provide an agricultural learning event at the 2015 Colorado State Fair. Invited sixth grade classes from Pueblo County schools came to the fair and experience numerous educational stations that taught lessons about agriculture and the history of

the western lifestyle. The stations were Water, Hunting, Food/GMO/Nutrition, Colorado History, Cowboys and the West, and Ranch Animals. Three hundred twenty-four youth participated in the two day event, along with fifty-one teachers and adult chaperones. Tom and Michael presented the Ranch Animals educational station. They introduced the 375 urban attendees to dairy cattle, beef cattle, sheep, goats, swine, chickens, and market rabbits.



The groups learned about how ranchers care for their animals and provide quality welfare to keep the animals healthy and productive. Discussions were

also held about how animals are utilized in animal agriculture and various food and non-food products that are provided by livestock.

The Ag and Natural resource team is also involved in youth programs and community organizations. Assisting 4-H members in their projects and teaching them good animal



husbandry to provide our future producers a sound education to build off of is vital. Annually an Ag Fest is held for local 5th and 6th grade students to teach them about the many aspects of agriculture and its importance, the Ag and Natural resource team is an important part of this event. Serving as ex-officio members of the Pueblo County Stockman's Association as well the Pueblo County Farm Bureau, expert advice is given to these organizations. The Ag and Natural Resource agent is also the lead person on the

Pueblo County Animal Rescue Team (CART). This group of animal professionals, law enforcement, emergency responders and interested citizens trains and prepares for the evacuation and sheltering of all animals in the event of a disaster. Finally we serve on the Sustainable Pueblo Committee to seek ways to insure the sustainability of our people and natural resources. Finally the team handles many one-on-one contacts throughout the year. We provide feed, soil and water sampling equipment that can be borrowed or we can come take samples. We also help to interpret the results received from the analytical laboratories on these samples. We are available to answer a multitude of questions from noxious or poisonous weeds to what insects are in my house. Helping those that are moving to the area or have lived here all their life become successful in their endeavors is important to the team. It gives us all great joy to see the results of our education and assistance come to life and better our community.



ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES & OFFICE SUPPORT

Personnel - Christine Pauletich, Valerie Billings, Marnie Leinberger, and Carolyn Valdez

CSU Extension/Pueblo County's administrative services provide full office support for all CSU Extension programs. Responsibilities include: budget, accounting, reception, logistics, contracts, grants, payroll, program support, inventory, and customer service.

Also provided are accounting and program support to several collaborating agencies such as: Family & Community Education, Western Landscape Symposium, Pueblo County 4-H Foundation, Pueblo County Showcase Sale, Washington Focus and Pueblo County Fair Board.

CSU EXTENSION - PUEBLO COUNTY

701 Court Street Suite C

719-583-6566

<http://pueblo.colostate.edu>



Visit us on Facebook at:

CSU Extension-Pueblo County: <https://www.facebook.com/CSUExtensionPueblo>

Pueblo County 4-H page: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Pueblo-County-4-H/317998552504>

Pueblo Youth Naturally: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Pueblo-Youth-Naturally/155209757881604>

Pueblo County Horticulture: <https://www.facebook.com/PuebloCountyHorticulture>

Family & Consumer Science: <https://www.facebook.com/PuebloFCS>

Western Landscape Symposium: <https://www.facebook.com/westernlandscapesymposium>



STAFF

Michael "MJ" Fisher – County Director

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

Elizabeth Catt - Horticulture Assistant

Devin Engle, Extension Agent - 4-H and Youth Development

Josie Gonzales – SNAP-Ed Educator

Lois Illick, Extension Agent - Consumer and Family

Carol Kuhns - 4-H Program Coordinator

Tom Laca, Extension Agent - Ag & Natural Resources

Linda McMulkin, Coordinator –Horticulture/PYN

Yolanda Montoya - EFNEP Educator

Charlene Trujillo - EFNEP Educator

Mary Esther Vigil – SNAP-Ed Educator

Valerie Billings - Office Manager

Marnie Leinberger - Program Assistant

Christine Pauletich - Program Assistant

Carolyn Valdez - Program Assistant