



PUEBLO COUNTY

COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY EXTENSION



4th Quarter 2017 Volume 4, Issue 4

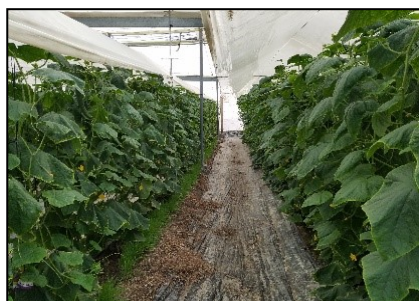
Extension Pathways

Pueblo County Extension Leads Ag & Cultural Tour to Spain

Over the past few years, there have been numerous discussions within the local ag community about what producers in southern Spain are doing to advance ag technology and production in that region. The growing interest prompted the Pueblo County Extension office to organize a thirteen-day tour to Spain to look at their agriculture in detail and also to learn about the Spanish culture. A total of twenty-two people went on the tour; eight from Pueblo County, twelve others from across Colorado, and two from New Mexico.



Robotic seed planting at Saliplant in Motril, Spain.



Greenhouse cucumber production near Motril, Spain.

Tour participants learned about Spanish production and marketing of numerous fruit and vegetables, olive oil, vineyards, equine, and cattle. There were also group discussions centering on water conservation efforts, greenhouse development, ag labor issues, global marketing and trade, as well as international shipping logistics. Spanish ag companies demonstrated their technology advances, such as robotic planting of vegetables and the development of bees that thrive in greenhouses. The tour attendees were exposed to traditional local cultural foods and to new food products that ag companies are working on developing. The group also visited several cultural sites, learning about how culture, beliefs, political structure, and necessity have driven Spain's growth, development, and exploration over the centuries. A really interesting part of the cultural lessons was learning about how Spanish explorers had discovered various plants in their travels and brought these home to Spain to be absorbed into Spanish agriculture.



Tour group visiting the Yeguada de la Cartuja horse farm outside of Jerez, Spain.



Bulls near Madrid, Spain being fattened for international sales to the Middle East.

Several members of the tour group are planning to relay what they learned to their local ag communities in Colorado and New Mexico via presentations, articles, and classroom discussions.

Ranchers and Land Managers from Nine States Learn in Pueblo

A two-day conference was developed in Pueblo, Colorado for October 31 and November 1, 2017. It was co-hosted by the Colorado Section Society for Range Management & Colorado State University Extension. Western SARE and the National Grazing Lands Coalition each provided \$2,000 in funds to cover travel costs for several of the speakers who were on the program. Additionally, the Colorado State Fairgrounds assisted with the use of facilities. The conference was titled “Regenerating Landscapes: Back to the Future.”

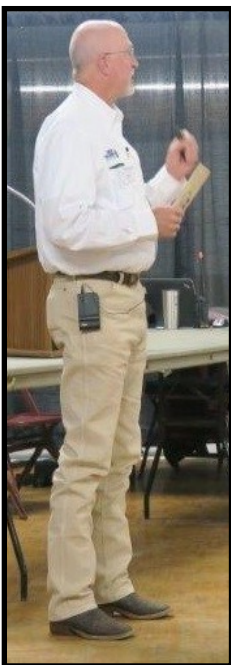
Attendance was 150 people; and represented Colorado, California, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Texas, & Wyoming. There was information available for everyone with twenty speaker presentations.

The conference kicked off with Allen Maez (NRCS, retired) discussing how Native American culture has perceived land stewardship. Dave Carter (National Bison Association) followed this up with an intriguing discussion of how bison mob graze and their effectiveness in modern grazing management. Retired rancher and author, Chip Hines, rounded out the morning with a discussion of how the ranching industry has progressed over the past several decades.



Dave Carter with the National Bison Association discusses the mob grazing behavior of bison.

Dr. Richard Teague (Texas A&M) gave a very informative presentation about multi-paddock grazing and the adaptive research being done in this area. The next presenter, Doug Peterson (NRCS) connected well to this with high stock density grazing and its impact on regenerating soil health. Hugh Aljoe of the Noble Foundation tied this together with a consultant's perspective of mob grazing and Louis Martin (Round River Resource Management) added a rancher's experience with mob grazing.



Hugh Aljoe of the Noble Institute visits with the group about how a consultant perceives high stock density grazing.

Day two opened with Dr. Paul Meiman and graduate students Elena Dosamantes and Scott Bradfield sharing information about recent rangeland research being conducted by Colorado State University. This was followed with Byron Shelton of the Savory Institute sharing about how ranchers and land managers can work on regenerating brittle landscapes. Utilizing technology and information in an effort to build resilience for regenerative grazing was focused on with a presentation by Christine Su of PastureMap. Tate Smith (Regenerative Stewardship, LLC) visited with the group on land steward techniques that can assist with regenerating landscapes. The group was then updated by Amber Wyndham (NRCS) on how they can utilize ecological site information as a rangeland drought adaptation tool.

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Ranchers and Land Managers from Nine States Learn in Pueblo

The planning committee also wanted to ensure that the audience had the opportunity to learn about locally-grown agriculture efforts taking place in the State, as well as work being done to bring new farmers/ranchers into agriculture. Therefore, there



Attendees at the Regenerating Landscapes: Back to the Future Conference

were three presentations that were co-presented. Brook Levan and Zopher Sabo (Sustainable Settings) shared with the group their work in central Colorado to grow and provide locally-grown agriculture to a community, in a fashion that is sustainable for the future. Jule Sullivan and Paul Neubauer, from the Blue Range Ranch, discussed the New Agrarian Program and how its apprenticeship relations allow new people to enter agriculture, as well as how this helps established ranching entities to remain sustainable. Finally, Katie Miller and Carrie Balkcom (American Grassfed Association) visited about the grass to grill opportunities for grassfed meats and how small ranching operations can take advantage of this.



Cottage Foods Continue to Thrive

The Cottage Food Act was first enacted in Colorado in 2014 as a way to provide additional income to families and individuals during the recession. Since then, it has grown into a booming business for many Colorado locals.

Through the Cottage Food Act, individuals are allowed to produce certain food products in their home kitchen in order to sell to consumers through farmer's markets, craft

shows and via online stores. Eligible foods must be "non-potentially hazardous", basically meaning that they must be shelf-stable for storage. This includes items such as jams, jellies, canned fruits, pickles, breads, baked goods, dried teas, granola and more. There are also a few specialty items that can be sold under the right conditions such as farm fresh eggs and honey. In order to obtain the certification, individuals must take a 4-hour class covering both food safety and the specifics of the law. After passing the certification exam, the license is good for 3 years, at which point it must be renewed.

In 2017, the CSU Extension office in Pueblo County offered five Cottage Food Certification classes, and awarded almost 100 people with the Cottage Food license. Classes will continue to be offered throughout 2018. Please call the Extension office for upcoming dates!

12th Annual Western Landscape Symposium

It is that time again— time to purchase tickets to one of the most anticipated horticultural events in Southern Colorado, the Western Landscape Symposium. This event focuses on creating beautiful and sustainable landscapes in the arid west. The 12th annual Symposium is scheduled for Saturday, March 17, 2018 in the Fortino Ballroom at Pueblo Community College. The fun and learning start at 9:00 a.m. and are scheduled to go until 3:30 p.m. Home gardeners and landscape enthusiasts from all over Colorado will gather to learn about hot topics in horticulture from renowned experts in the field.



*Keynote Speaker
Marcia Tatroe*

This year's keynote speaker is Marcia Tatroe, a well-known garden writer and lecturer. Marcia's beautiful gardens have been featured in many publications. She has a new book that stresses the use of indigenous plants and materials in the landscape, and her personal garden was awarded Habitat Hero status by the Audubon Society. She will be speaking at the Symposium on how to use xeric plants that will give your garden a burst of color and conserve resources in this time of water uncertainty.

The breakout sessions are also sure to please homeowners of all skill levels. Jamie Weiss from the Audubon Society will be presenting on the Habitat Hero Wildscaping program and how you can provide an oasis for animal pollinators in any urban setting. Joel Reich is a horticultural consultant who will show attendees how even Colorado gardeners can grow great blueberries and small fruits. CSU Extension turf specialist Dr. Tony Koski will teach people how to responsibly manage a lawn in our arid climate.

Have you ever wondered, which bugs are good? Which are bad? Dr. Meredith Shrader will answer that question in her talk on using beneficial insects to control pests in the garden. If you do use pesticides in your garden, do you fully understand what the label says? It is very important to interpret the labels correctly, and Thia Walker from the Colorado Environmental Pesticide Education Program can help you navigate them. Last but not least, Elizabeth Inman from Purple Adobe Lavender Farm in New Mexico will cover all the bases on having a beautiful lavender garden.

Tickets can be purchased now by visiting westernlandscape.org or visiting the CSU Extension office at 701 Court St. Suite C. Admission is \$20, and lunch tickets are also available. Don't miss this fantastic annual event!





PUEBLO COUNTY

COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY EXTENSION

Upcoming Events

For details, call 583-6566 or visit
<http://pueblo.extension.colostate.edu>

Family and Consumer Programs

- Cottage Foods Safety Training, Feb. 24, 9:00 am-1:00 pm, fee \$40.00. Register at Eventbrite.com or our office.
- The Mediterranean Diet: A dietary pattern for healthy living, March 27, 5:30-7:30 pm, fee \$10.00. Register at Eventbrite.com or our office.

Horticulture Programs

- 2018 Colorado Master Gardener Training, Jan. 18 -April 5.
- Succulent Terrarium Workshop, Feb. 22, 5:30-7:30 pm, fee \$25.00. Register at Eventbrite.com or our office.
- 12th Annual Western Landscape Symposium, March 17, 9:00 am-3:30 pm, fee \$20.00. Register at Eventbrite.com or our office.
- All Pueblo Grows Seed Library, collecting and packaging seeds, last Saturday of every month, Rawlings Library, Thurston Room, 1st Floor

4-H/Youth Development

- Ongoing Club and County Programs

4-H STEAM

- Growing STEAM Makers– at Pueblo area libraries. Call for details– 719-583-6566.
- Spring Into Action-Pollination Maker Spring Break Camp, March 19-23, Scholarships available. Registration required.
- After School programs at area Elementary Schools.

EFNEP (Expanded Food and Nutrition Program)

- Nutrition classes– Ongoing-call for schedule

Ag/Range/Natural Resources

- A to Z of Bees, Feb. 13 and Feb. 20 6:00-9:00 pm, fee \$20 per person/\$30 per couple. Registration required.
- AgrAbility, Feb. 14, 10:00am-2:00 pm, Free class includes lunch if registered by Feb 7th.
- Backyard Poultry, March 28, 6:00-8:00 pm, fee \$10 per person/\$15 per couple. Registration required.
- Site visits and consultations– Ongoing, upon request

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Congratulations!

Local Extension Efforts Recognized

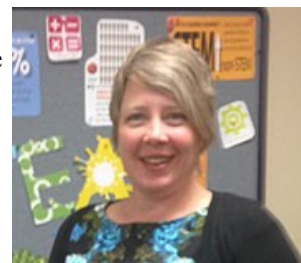


Carolyn Valdez

Colorado State University Extension recognizes that support staff are an integral part of the County Extension team. Each year CSUE selects two or three County support staff members from around the State who go above and beyond for Extension. In October, Carolyn Valdez was honored

with the CSUE Meritorious Support Service Award. Carolyn is a valuable member of our team who supports both the Pueblo County Horticulture Extension Agent and the Pueblo County Agriculture/Natural Resource Agent. Carolyn also works with the Colorado Master Gardener Program and the Native Plant Master Program. Additionally, she assists with front desk reception, manages inventory control, and is the safety and risk management committee representative for the Pueblo County Extension office.

Also in October, Pueblo County Extension 4-H STEM Agent Jane Crayton received the Epsilon Sigma Phi Visionary Leadership Recognition Award. This award recognizes an Extension employee's ability to anticipate a new opportunity and develop support to do programming in that area. During the award presentation, the ESP awards committee chair referenced Jane's grant writing ability that helped her secure funds to develop an educational bee apiary and related youth camps, partnering with the Pueblo zoo.



Jane Crayton

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.