



# PUEBLO COUNTY

## COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY EXTENSION



2nd and 3rd Quarter 2018 Volume 5, Issue 2

## *Extension Pathways*



### Chile and Frijole Fest



Horticulture Agent, Sherie Caffey and Family and Consumer Science Agent, Laura Krause collaborated on a booth for the 24<sup>th</sup> Annual Chile and Frijole Festival. Enlisting the help of 22 Master Gardener and Master Food Safety Advisor volunteers, the booth provided information to the public on winterizing gardens and lawns, soil testing, chile food safety, and proper processing of freshly roasted Pueblo chiles. Handouts were available on a variety of gardening topics, as well as recipes for canning chiles and other fresh seasonal fruits and vegetables. A children's activity was also provided where kids (or adults) could make their own necklace, which would sprout a bean plant out of it. Over the course of 3 days, the agents and volunteers connected with over 1500 people. CSU Extension-Pueblo County has become a staple for the Chile and Frijole Fest and many people look for the booth every year for the latest information on home gardening and food safety.



This event, which draws a statewide crowd, also allows the opportunity to educate the public who are not familiar with CSU Extension. These big events and the impact they have would not be possible without so many fantastic and willing volunteers.

# Summer of Food Preservation

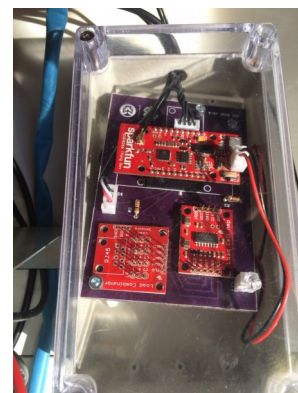
Family and Consumer Science Agent, Laura Krause conducted 11 food preservation classes between the months of August and October. Topics included: jams and jellies, water bath canning, pressure canning, pickling, fermenting and freezing and dehydrating. Participants learned proper food preservation methods, recipe selection, altitude adjustment and basic kitchen food safety. A hands-on component of each class allowed participants to not only learn about proper techniques, but to try them out as well.



The response to these classes was overwhelming. The schedule was set with the expectation that some classes probably would not fill and would need to be cancelled, but they all filled quickly, with some exceeding capacity. Some people were interested in one particular topic, while many participants signed up for all six topics. Many of the participants were new to CSU Extension classes, so it was great to get to know some new faces. The group of “regulars” also really got a chance to get to know each other and new friendships were formed throughout the 12 weeks of classes.

## BeeWise Smart Hive Kit

The BeeWise Smart Hive Kit has been developed by Jane Crayton and CSU Extension’s 4-H STEAM program. The kit aims to support youth in 21<sup>st</sup> Century beekeeping by using data from the smart hives to make hive management decisions. For example, honey bee colony weight can inform beekeepers about nectar flows, honey robbing and hive theft. Monitoring temperature of the brood chamber can inform beekeepers about the queen’s egg laying production, and monitoring hive humidity can help beekeepers prevent freezing of the colony over winter.



The BeeWise Smart Hive kit was designed with the aim to capture ambient temperature and humidity inside the hive as well as temperature of the brood chamber and hive weight. Prototyping started with using an Arduino micro controller and Raspberry Pi to allow wi-fi access. After unsuccessful building of the first prototype, the design was scrapped due to complexity of the kits components. A second prototype was initiated using, “The Thing Dev SP8266” an Arduino microcontroller with onboard wi-fi. The Thing Dev was used for the 2017 Incredible Wearable, 4-H National Youth Science Day Kits and promised easy implementation for engineering and kit assembly by youth.

Prototype development included the design and production of a custom printed circuit board. The printed circuit board is a condensed circuit that assists users in assembly and connection of the required components including microcontroller, load cell amplifier and combiner chips, Li-Po charger and temperature sensor chips. This eliminates most of the wiring for these components and cleans up the kit making it easier for youth to work with. The next phase of the BeeWise Kit will be to secure funding to scale up the project, so youth beekeepers beyond Pueblo County can participate in Citizen Science and 21<sup>st</sup> Century Beekeeping. Visit the website at [beewise.extension.colostate.edu](http://beewise.extension.colostate.edu).



# MyPI Coming to Pueblo County



What is MyPI you ask? My Preparedness Initiative is a youth disaster and emergency preparedness program that educates teens to not only help themselves but also those around them in emergencies. MyPI began in Mississippi in 2013 and has since been implemented in numerous states with Colorado being the 18<sup>th</sup> state to adopt it. Since its inception, MyPI has received multiple national awards in youth preparedness from FEMA and other agencies.

Ag and Natural Resources Extension Agent, Tom Laca, has been trained in administering this program and is looking forward to educating Pueblo County teens in disaster preparedness. The teens will receive 40 hours of both classroom and hands-on education in order to be certified. Part of the teaching will be CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) training. The areas covered include: Disaster Preparedness, Fire Safety and Utility Control, Disaster Medical Operations, Light Search and Rescue, CERT Organization, Disaster Psychology, Terrorism and CERT and Hazard annexes.

He will also be able to certify teens in CPR and AED usage. Technology aspects will be covered as well including HAM Radio, NOAA Weather Radio, Smoke Alarm Maintenance, Smart Phone Apps and the use of Social Media in Disasters. Students will also be involved in an exercise to test what they have learned.

The final component that each student must complete in order to graduate from the program is to complete a community service project entitled “Prep+6.” In this project each participant must help prepare an emergency supply kit and an emergency communication plan for both their own family and 6 other households. This Prep+6 will greatly increase the number of homes in the county that are more aware and better prepared in emergency situations.

Watch for this fine program coming this Spring. Tom will be working with local schools to help determine a time and place to host a class. He is also currently working with local emergency responders to assist in the instruction of the course. The more prepared a community is when the disaster strikes, the more resilient it will be when the disaster is over.



*MyPI CO instructors Tom Laca and Bruce Fickenscher practice fire suppression.*



# PUEBLO COUNTY

## COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY EXTENSION

### Upcoming Events

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

#### Family and Consumer Programs

- Foods Safety Training for Cottage Foods Producers, Fee \$40.00, 2019 dates: Jan. 25, 1:00-4:00 pm or Feb. 22, 1:00-4:00 pm.
- Artisanal Cheesemaking, Jan. 17, 2019, 6:30-8:30 pm, fee: \$25.00

#### Horticulture Programs

- 2019 Colorado Master Gardener Training – Applications being accepted now through December 7, 2018– visit [pueblo.extension.colostate.edu](http://pueblo.extension.colostate.edu) for more information.
- All Pueblo Grows Seed Library, collecting and packaging seeds, last Saturday of every month starting in January, Rawlings Library, Thurston Room, 1st Floor.  
Visit: [allpueblogrows.org](http://allpueblogrows.org)
- Save the date- Spring CMG Plant Sale - May 11, 2019.

#### 4-H/Youth Development

- Ongoing Club and County Programs
- Currently enrolling new and return members. Returning member deadline– Dec. 3; New member deadline–March 1

#### 4-H STEAM

- District and Southern Colorado Regional STEM Fair Feb 19-21- youth may contact Jane Crayton at 719-583-6566 for project mentoring.

#### EFNEP (Expanded Food and Nutrition Program)

- Nutrition classes– Ongoing–call for schedule

#### Ag/Range/Natural Resources

- Site visits and consultations– Ongoing, upon request
- A Lasting Legacy– A workshop for farm/ranch families, Jan. 14, 2019 12:00-5:00 p.m., \$25.00, lunch included.

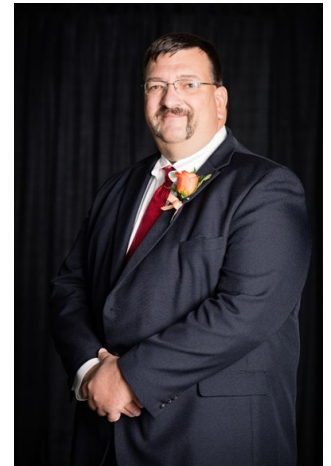
*Congratulations!*

## Local Extension Efforts Recognized

### MJ Fisher Receives NACAA Distinguished Service Award

During an August ceremony in Chattanooga, TN, the National Association of County Agricultural Agents

(NACAA) presented Pueblo County Extension Director Michael “MJ” Fisher with the Distinguished Service Award. The award honors his fourteen years of service to Extension work. MJ began his Extension career as the Pulaski County Agriculture & Natural Resource Extension Agent in Virginia; where he dealt with everything from cattle and horse questions to farm pond issues and



pesticide applicator trainings. In 2007, MJ became the Area Extension Livestock Agent for the Golden Plains Area in Northeastern Colorado. In that role MJ helped producers on a wide variety of livestock matters, while focusing research and study interests on nutrition for grazing and wintering cattle. MJ moved to Pueblo County in 2013 to take over the position of County Extension Director. In his current role he mostly has administrative responsibilities but MJ still manages to maintain some program work, such as advising on livestock nutrition, teaching cast iron cooking workshops, and facilitating international agricultural tours. MJ said, “It has been a true honor to receive the Distinguished Service Award from NACAA. It is a special feeling to know that my colleagues across the State of Colorado cared enough to take the time to nominate me.”

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