



PUEBLO COUNTY
COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY
EXTENSION

Pueblo County PATHWAYS

This Issue:

- AgFest
- National Champs
- Health Fair
- Supporting Native Plants
- Rabies Response



AgFest 2020

Extension Agents and Coordinators from Pueblo County collaborated with agents from surrounding counties to provide “AgFest”, an agricultural educational opportunity for 5th graders. Each classroom rotates through 20 minute stations addressing agriculture related topics such as wind energy, dairy, water cycles, embryology, food production, beef and soil.

In 2020, the team completed 3 days of education reaching 21 classes and over 400 children. Each student completed a pre and post-test in order to evaluate overall knowledge gained from AgFest. On average, it was found that the student’s knowledge on agriculture increased by over 30%. This event has continued to grow in size and popularity over the years and there is already a substantial waitlist for 2021. This program offers a fun field trip day for the kids and teachers, and certainly provides impactful educational resources on agriculture.



Pueblo County 4-H Youth Achieve Excellence at Western National Roundup

After winning at local and state levels the Parliamentary Procedure team and Impromptu Speaker from Pueblo County 4-H are National Champions!

Western National Roundup is an annual event held in Denver that provides youth the opportunity to compete nationally in several different contests, ranging from meats judging to professional speaking, to consumer choices. Each contest focuses on the 4-H Mission Mandates of Science, Engineering, Technology, Mathematics, Healthy Living and Citizenship. This year, Pueblo County took first in both contests in National Western Roundup, which is now in its 100th year.

In the Parliamentary Procedure contest, the teams are challenged to present a model meeting where Robert's Rules of Order must be followed. After winning at State, Pueblo's team began training for the next six months to compete at the National Western Round-up. Maverick Wills, their coach, had this to say; *"This team practiced a minimum of once per week for three to four hours each time. The dedication of these four individuals is outstanding and shows the true dedication and determination of Pueblo County 4-H'ers. They are all true leaders of our community. It's been a privilege and honor to have coached them this last year."* Pueblo's team unseated Texas, a ten-time winner, as the National Champions.

In the Impromptu Speaking contest, a speaker is given a topic on which to speak, and the contestant must prepare a speech in a limited time frame to present to the judges. Caitlin Johnston, who won this award, had to beat out 11 other competitors for the honor. She too, competed at State 4-H Conference for the opportunity to compete at Roundup. She said; *"Participating in speech has helped shape me as a student and community member. I know that it is such an essential skill that I will use for the rest of my life. This award was an amazing accomplishment for me."*

While there, the Pueblo County 4-Hers also enjoyed attending workshops, leadership development activities and other educational opportunities. The 4-Hers were proud to represent their home county, and truly represent the 4-H Motto of "Making the Best Better!"



Pictured: Austin Stevens, Logan Wills, Caitlin Johnston, Izabel Holmes, Luke Hawkins Not Pictured: Maverick Wills, ParliPro Coach. Austin, Logan, Izabel, and Luke are the Parliamentary Procedure Champions. Caitlin (center) is the Impromptu Speech Champion.

Goodnight Elementary School Health Fair

In February, 4-H agent Jennifer Johnston and 4-H coordinator Beth Hayes attended the Goodnight Elementary School Health Fair. They presented resources on 4-H youth development opportunities and how youth involvement in 4-H tend to lead to more active, healthier lifestyles. Beth and Jen offered a STEM activity of making a whirligig. This fun hands-on learning activity drew in students of various ages along with their families. This gave the Extension staff the opportunity to talk to the parents about the health benefits of 4-H and the other programs that Extension offers to the community.

Overall there was a huge crowd interested in the Extension booth and it was a great event. They interacted with about 100 families and hopefully this brings new families into the 4-H program along with other Extension programs. Pueblo Extension is always looking for more unique events to attend and this one is certainly one we hope to attend again.



Jen Johnston demonstrates a whirligig in action.

Supporting Native Plants



In March CSU Extension in Pueblo County hosted a class called Native Plants and their Pollinators. We brought in former CSU Extension Horticulture Agent and current Native Plant Master volunteer Linda McMulkin to teach participants about how they can have a beautiful, sustainable garden that will also support native pollinator populations. Participants got to split into groups and design their own gardens using hypothetical situations. Participants were also given seed packets of native plants that are good for pollinators so they could take them home and start their own garden. At the end of the class the room was buzzing (pun intended) with excitement and inspiration. Creating sustainable landscapes that can support native pollinators is very important and CSU Extension in Pueblo County supports and promotes this effort to the fullest.



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, 3-year certification Fee \$40.00, Webinar Dates: April 8, 13, and 17, and May 8 and 12. Register on Eventbrite.com
- Cheese Making Class, Details to be determined
- Growing, Using, And Preserving Herbs, Free Zoom class Dates: June 23, 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

Horticulture Programs

- 2020 Yard and Garden Classes: Topics include growing vegetables, pollinators, composting, and much more in this class series. For complete list of classes and registration details visit: <https://pueblo.extension.colostate.edu/2020-yard-garden/>
- All Pueblo Grows Seed Library, collecting and packaging seeds. Look for neighborhood seed boxes. Visit: allpueblogrows.org
- Xeriscape Garden Tours— Online TBA

4-H/Youth Development

- Ongoing Club and County Programs
- Follow us on Facebook and YouTube

EFNEP (Expanded Food and Nutrition Program)

- Nutrition classes— Ongoing-call for schedule

Ag/Range/Natural Resources

- Site visits and consultations— Ongoing
- Backyard Poultry Webinar—May 4th, 6:30 p.m., Register on Eventbrite.com

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

Rabies Response



The rabies virus continues to be of concern here in Pueblo County. As of the last update from the Colorado Dept. of Public Health and

Environment on April 22th, there had been 5 skunks and one domestic animal confirmed positive in Pueblo County. Almost all of these cases have been in the Beulah, Rye and Colorado City areas. From these confirmed cases several people have been exposed and are now undergoing post exposure rabies vaccinations.

In response to the recent reports of rabies cases, Ag Agent Tom Laca has made an effort to educate Pueblo County residents on rabies and how to prevent exposure. This educational effort has included several platforms to spread the word. On April 27th a Zoom class was held in which Tom described the disease and disease process, informed participants on how to recognize signs and symptoms and how to prevent exposure to rabies. Also as part of the effort Tom created a YouTube video describing rabies, prevention measures and how to report suspected cases in wild animals. This video can be seen at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jlAfB5WB-ek>. This video has been shared to Facebook as well and has been viewed by many.

Tom is continuing to follow the latest updates on rabies in the county and will continue to provide education on the subject. The best thing that people can do to mitigate rabies is make sure your pets are up to date on their vaccinations. People should also avoid any and all close contact with wild animals. By doing these few things they can keep themselves and their animals safe and healthy.