



PUEBLO COUNTY
COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY
EXTENSION

Pueblo County PATHWAYS

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Colorado Fairs & COVID-19: A Partnership with Colorado Association of Fairs & Shows

MJ Fisher, Pueblo County Extension Director

The global COVID-19 pandemic has forced either the modification or complete cancelation of many events throughout the world. That includes fairs and festivals that are held across Colorado. March through June is typically a period when fair managers, fair board members, County Commissioners, and Extension offices are heavily involved with developing their plans for the summertime fairs to be held in their communities. However, during 2020 these months were filled with unknowns, gathering size restrictions, and for a period even a ban on fairs. Almost every County in the State had questions about how they may or may not be able to move forward to hold a County Fair or event; however, almost nobody had answers.

MJ Fisher saw that there was a need for a place where officials from the State's counties could look for answers to some of these questions. And realizing that answers may not yet exist, a more pressing need might be a forum where those questions could be posed so that future answers could be developed by State officials. The Pueblo County Extension office reached out to the Colorado Association of Fairs and Shows (CAFS) and a partnership was formed to host a series of Statewide Zoom meetings on the subject.

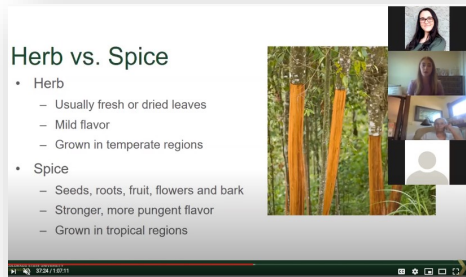
The meetings were held on April 14th, May 12th, and June 16th; with registration numbers of 253 people, 306 people, and 261 people, respectively. The meetings allowed time for a variety of groups to share their organizations' approach to events during COVID-19. Invited speakers included the President of CAFS, the general manager of the Colorado State Fair, the CEO of the International Association of Fairs & Expositions, the Associate VP for CSU Engagement & Extension, CSU Extension's State Director for 4-H Youth Development, the State Advisor for Colorado FFA, Colorado's Commissioner of Agriculture, the Director for the Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment's (CDPHE) Office of Legal & Regulatory Compliance, and CDPHE's Chief Medical Officer. In addition to allowing these speakers to share information with fair managers, fair board members, County commissioners, and Extension Agents, the forums also gave people the opportunity to ask questions. Many of the questions weren't yet answerable but it gave officials items to consider as they developed future State guidelines.

The series of "Colorado Fairs & COVID-19" Zoom meetings were a successful way to share information statewide with local decision makers. It was also an opportunity to strengthen the partnership between CAFS & CSU Extension.

Virtual Programming: Growing, Using & Preserving Herbs

Horticulture Agent, Sherie Caffey and Family and Consumer Science Agent, Laura Griffin collaborated on a virtual herbs program. This class was held through Zoom and was free to the public to sign up for and attend. The class covered growing herbs both in containers and outside gardens, how to preserve herbs using methods of freezing and dehydration, and flavor pairings for cooking with some of the most popular herbs. This class was advertised locally within Pueblo County, but became a

global success. The class reached capacity, with 300 individuals registering. Not only were there many local participants from Pueblo and surrounding counties, but many were from all across the state of Colorado. Colorado residents made up about half of the participants. The remaining individuals were from coast to coast across the United States, as well as 12 other countries including: Canada, Mexico, Germany, Austria and the UK. The feedback received from this program was extremely positive and has stemmed additional virtual programming plans throughout the rest of 2020.



The presentation can be viewed on the Pueblo County Extension YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCi0dsYcfX1glbHQWPit8WDQ>

Virtual 4-H

The CSU Extension Pueblo County 4-H program responded to the COVID-19 situation by implementing virtual programming opportunities and sharing nationwide contests for local members. Examples of these range from 4-H trivia game nights to lecture presentations from industry professionals and so much more. The 4-H staff have also presented weekly 4-H-friendly STEM Facebook videos and CSU Extension Pueblo County YouTube channel videos that are project specific for our 4-H community. This virtual programming has been met with success and engagement by the Pueblo County 4-H community. The Pueblo County 4-H Facebook page videos have between 200-300 people engaging with the videos on a weekly basis and the cross-feeding between that group and the YouTube channel is large as well. This has helped keep our 4-H families connected and engaged in this new virtual experience.

The Pueblo County 4-H community has shown resilience and strength during this trying time and our 4-H office couldn't have pivoted as quickly as we did without the continued support of the 4-H leaders, members and volunteers. This pandemic situation truly bleeds green as we have seen compassionate acts from our clubs from donating homemade cloth masks for people to wear and giving cards to healthcare professionals. The 4-H community continues to strive forward through all the challenges and is always looking for new ways to engage Pueblo's youth in a positive setting.

Right- Parkview Healthcare Professionals posing with 4-H club donations to the Pueblo West ER facility

Left- Friday 4-H Facebook video activities focus on STEM

Right- 4-H friendly YouTube videos focus on 4-H project areas

Hatching New 4-H Programs

Whether an at-home DIYer or global media faction, livestreaming has become a mainstream method for anyone wanting to get live content out to their respective audiences virtually. And in the time of COVID, livestreaming has become less a convenient technology and more an invaluable necessity. With much of livestreaming content focusing on up-to-the-second news streams with interesting people, vibrant protests or gritty sport events and with no expense spared, it is important to highlight some livestream content that is much softer, “cheeper” and content that happens in the pre-dawn light over a slightly humming incubator.

CSU Extension Pueblo is not the first Extension Office to offer chick-hatching livestreams (that title belongs to Douglas County Extension) but Pueblo County Extension was nimble enough to offer the program virtually, right at the start of Quarantine.

“Chicks need 21 days to hatch.” Jen Johnston, Pueblo County 4-H/Youth Development Agent said. “And if you’re going to be stuck inside anyway, there’s no better time to hatch chickens.”

Pueblo County Extension decided to offer their chick-hatching livestream on Periscope, the favorite livestreaming service of Twitter. “It worked really well for us.” Jen said. “We were looking for something that would allow anyone to join without signing up, and something you could watch easily on your phone.” And of course, Twitter is for the birds. Pueblo County Extension led up to the big day with virtual lessons on setting up a brooder bin and egg candling. These highlighted the same lessons that elementary-aged students would be receiving in the Chicken Embryology Program that Pueblo County Extension offers during the school year, pre-COVID. “If anything,” Jen says, “It gave everyone something to do while being stuck inside those first few weeks. I was happy I could contribute to that.”

On day 21, the tried and true date incubated eggs hatch on, viewers logged into the stream and started engaging in the chat box, asking what was going on.

“I had one viewer who thought it was a static image of eggs.” Jen said. “I’m not sure where they were from, but they asked why we were

‘staring at eggs.’ Once I explained to them what was going on, they were so excited. They asked how long it might take (up to 24 hours) and they watched until they had to go to sleep. It was proof to me that education that is interesting and engaging is what makes people want to learn.”

Viewers from New York, Texas, Colorado, India, Russia (and many more) logged on. People engaged in the chat, cheered on the chicks from a distance, and engaged with each other live, from all over the world. “All in all we had almost 800 unique viewers. And since then, the video has been replayed almost 100 times.”

Watching chicks hatch live is just one of the many offerings that livestreaming can offer in the new, largely virtual landscape. “It’s not exactly like the real thing,” Jen said, “but it’s close.”



895 Viewers

Pueblo County Hatch Day Part 2



You can check out the original, popular livestream here: <https://www.pscp.tv/PuebloCounty4H/1LyxBNaMqZyxN>



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

- Foods Safety Training for Cottage Foods Producers, 3-year certification Fee \$40.00, Online Webinar Dates: July 18, Aug 5, Aug 21, Sept 2, Sept. 12. Register at [Eventbrite.com](https://www.eventbrite.com)
- Upcoming: Food Preservation Series— visit pueblo.extension.colostate.edu for more information.

- Garden Pests, Diseases and Remedies class, FREE online class via Zoom, Wednesday, July 29, 2020, 12:00 – 2:00 p.m. Registration required by Monday, July 27, 2020 at 5:00 p.m. <https://gardenpests.eventbrite.com>
- Helpful Habitats for Pollinators class, FREE online via Zoom, Wednesday, August 12, 2020 12:00 – 2:00 p.m. Registration required by Monday, August 10, 2020 at 5:00 p.m.
- All Pueblo Grows Seed Library, collecting and packaging seeds. Look for neighborhood seed boxes. Visit: allpueblogrows.org

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

- Nutrition classes– Ongoing-call for schedule

- Site visits and consultations– Ongoing

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This year has brought many changes and challenges for just about everyone, but one thing that hasn't changed is Pueblo County's desire for horticulture education. Every year the Pueblo County Horticulture program has a Yard and Garden class series where monthly classes are held on timely topics. These classes are typically very well attended and very beneficial to those that participate. At the end of 2019, the 2020 Yard and Garden Series was released, and the public responded very positively. Classes were being signed up for months in advanced, and they were reaching maximum capacity right away.

Two classes were held in 2020 and then the coronavirus pandemic struck. So far no classes have been cancelled, they have all been moved to Zoom. We intend to move the entire 2020 Yard and Garden class series to Zoom. It is very important that people still have access to

2020 YARD AND GARDEN CLASS SERIES

GARDEN PESTS, DISEASES AND REMEDIES

Wednesday, July 29, 2020

12:00 - 2:00 p.m. MDT

Free online class via Zoom

Registration required.

Register by: July 27th at 5 p.m.

<https://gardenpests.eventbrite.com>

Handouts and the link to the Zoom session will be emailed to registrants the day before.

Instructor:

Sherie Caffey

CSU Extension Horticulture Agent

- Learn about common pests and diseases found in Colorado gardens and what you can do to remedy them.

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Online registration through Eventbrite.com.
Registration by Monday, July 27th at 5 p.m.
For more information call 719-583-6566.

Colorado State University Extension is an Equal Opportunity Institution. Extension programs are available on a non-discriminatory basis to all people. Extension programs are available on a non-discriminatory basis to all people. Extension programs are available on a non-discriminatory basis to all people.

Upcoming classes are filling quickly!

gardening education, because being stuck at home has more people paying attention to their yards and gardens. We have also waived all fees for Yard and Garden classes this year so they are accessible to all. Response to the virtual classes has been great with hundreds of people signing up from all over the world. We are glad to be a source of education and consistency in this time of unknowns.