



PUEBLO COUNTY

COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY
EXTENSION

Pueblo County PATHWAYS

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Photo by Carolyn Valdez

4-H in the Bag

2020 brought many challenges to the 4-H program. 4-H is known for being a hands-on learning program, however, this year that meant we had to find new and creative ways to engage youth through virtual programming. One of the ways this was accomplished was by introducing kit classes that help youth get hands-on interaction with their fellow 4-H peers. Since November, Pueblo County 4-H has been hosting “4-H in a Bag Kit Classes”. The classes range from baking, engineering, halter making, DIY crafts and so much more.

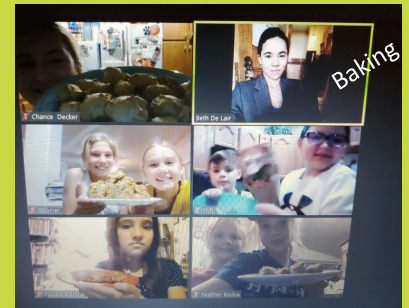
4-H members of all ages and project areas have shown positive reactions to these classes. 4-H is about ‘learning by doing’ and even though the youth are watching a screen, they still get to engage both their heads and their hands during this difficult time. We hope to continue this new way of programming and encourage families to engage with 4-H from home.

This novel idea has really helped our members stay active, engaged and connected during this time. All you have to do to verify this is look at the smiling faces you see in these pictures! The Pueblo County 4-H program is pleased to offer opportunities to all youth and we look forward to finding new ways to reach more families and encourage more youth to be the very best they can be.

Not only has this benefitted our youth but we have made some great connections with business partners in the community who have offered to donate supplies so kits can remain free to our youth. Partners such as Tractor Supply help us reach more families who are struggling during this time making 4-H an easy opportunity for all youth to participate without worrying about the cost. We send a huge thank you to Tractor Supply and other local businesses who strive to help our youth!



DIY Crafts



Baking



Gingerbread Engineers



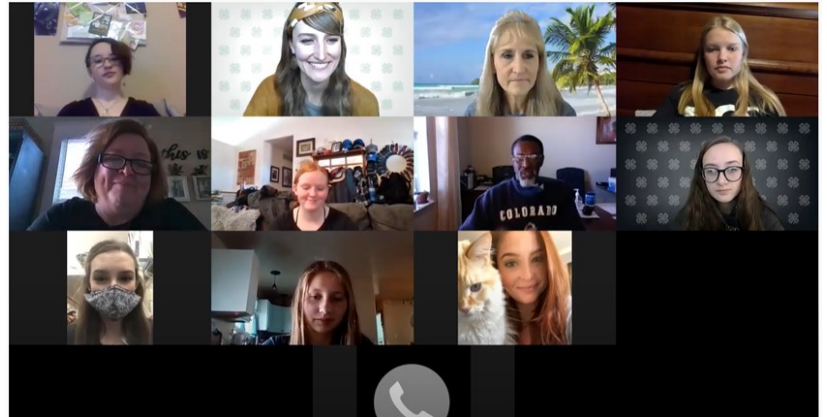
Sack puppets filled with supplies



Halter Tying

Leadership Society's Art 4-Heart Benefit

The Pueblo County 4-H Leadership Society works hard throughout the year to help promote and encourage civic-minded projects in the Pueblo County 4-H program. This year was no different. Though the challenge of COVID-19 was great, the Society members knew the importance of continuing to meet and support community service projects throughout the year. In this spirit, the creative thinking of the members led to the successful completion of the 4-H Leadership Society's annual Art 4-Heart Art Sale to benefit the Pueblo Child Advocacy Center.



During last summer, when many 4-H members were wondering how they would compete in a virtual County Fair, the Pueblo County Leadership Society were busy brainstorming how to hold an art show during a national pandemic. Rather than let the project flop, the Art 4-Heart Committee put their heads together and designed a rather elegant solution...an all virtual "Museum" experience.

Using the online design technology "artsteps", the Society members were able to collect and post art into an entirely virtual format, which permitted potential art buyers to "walk" through the gallery in a virtual space. This allowed all members to show off their art in a safe, socially distanced manner. Though novel, the idea took off—resulting in over \$200.00 in purchased art and donations, all of which goes to benefit the good work done by the Pueblo Child Advocacy Center.

The Leadership Society members also held a virtual "presentation" of the funds, which allowed members to meet with the members of the Pueblo Child Advocacy Board and describe the project from beginning to end.

The great work put in by the Pueblo County 4-H Leadership Society, their dedication, their willingness to be flexible and come up with new solutions to complex problems, is truly the shining example of what all 4-Hers can do to "Make the Best Better." Though the gallery is closed for purchases, it is still available for viewing here: <https://www.artsteps.com/view/5efe195232735c5c7f72346a>

We are Here for You

In an effort to reduce the possible spread of the COVID-19 Virus, the CSU Extension-Pueblo County office is closed to foot traffic. But we are still here to serve you. Staff of the CSU Extension Office in Pueblo County are working remotely. If you need to speak to a staff person, please call 719-583-6566. Agents and Coordinators can be reached by cell phone: MJ Fisher-719-821-0534, Sherie Shaffer-719-248-0171, Laura Griffin-719-248-0150, Jen Johnston-719-248-0367, Beth DeLair-719-251-0245

Our mail is being forwarded to the mailroom in the Historic Pueblo County Courthouse. Please be sure to address any mail to: CSU Extension Office Pueblo County, 701 Court Street, Suite C, Pueblo CO 81003.

We will get through this together!

Connecting to Clientele

Because the Pueblo County Extension Office was closed to the public for much of 2020, agents had to look for new ways to connect with their clientele. Family and Consumer Science Agent, Laura Griffin began producing weekly newsletters as a way to stay connected through email and social media.

These newsletters began in April as a weekly post titled “No Waste Wednesdays”, which sought to provide advice on surviving the effects of the COVID-19 shutdowns. Topics such as minimizing food waste, maximizing food storage and incorporating plant based proteins during meat shortages were discussed.

As things transitioned through the summer and fall, this weekly information continued with a wide variety of topics. October newsletters discussed COVID and family- friendly fall activities. November topics included ways to give back to the community in a COVID safe way. And December provided COVID and family-friendly holiday activities, from crafts to baking challenges. Please watch for continued educational material from the FCS Facebook page and email list in 2021!



Pueblo Master Gardeners Stay Engaged During Pandemic

During the pandemic, many people felt isolated and anxious in their daily lives. Our Master Gardener volunteers were included in this group and missing out on the MG program added to that isolation. We used technology and no contact activities to still get together as a program and stay engaged. We met monthly via zoom to stay connected on what was going on with everyone, we did virtual classes and trainings, and started a private Master Gardener Facebook group in which our volunteers could share photos, articles, ideas, and thoughts with each other. We also had some no contact activities that volunteers could participate in and make a difference in our community.



In the end, by staying in the program, our volunteers felt engaged with Extension and with the community even through the pandemic. We were able to celebrate the end to a strange year in October before the second wave hit, at an outdoor, socially distanced picnic.

We have surveyed our volunteers in a few different ways and generally they are very positive about the way we engaged during the pandemic and are looking forward to what we can do in 2021. Many of them have offered to join a team to brainstorm safe, no contact ways we can engage with each other and the community.



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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, Various online webinar dates are available. Register at Eventbrite.com
- Follow the FCS program on Facebook at: <https://www.facebook.com/PuebloFCS/> for weekly educational posts

Horticulture Programs

- All Pueblo Grows Seed Library, collecting and packaging seeds. Look for neighborhood seed boxes. Visit: allpueblogrows.org
- <https://www.facebook.com/PuebloCountyHorticulture>

4-H/Youth Development

- New member deadline February 1, 2021
- 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

- Better with Beef “Happy Hour” Producer Educational Series– Weekly on Thursday evenings through February 11, 2021. Register at <http://betterwithbeefhh/Eventbrite.com>
- <https://www.facebook.com/PuebloAg>

Follow Pueblo County Extension on Social Media

Instagram page at: <https://www.instagram.com/pueblountyextension/>

If you are using the app, you can find us at:

@PuebloCountyExtension

Follow us on Facebook at:

<https://www.facebook.com/CSUEExtensionPueblo>

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<https://www.facebook.com/CSUEExtensionPueblo>

Saying Goodbye

Tom Laca resigned from CSU Extension on December 18, 2020 to pursue other endeavors. Tom had joined the Pueblo County Extension office in January 2014. His lengthy job title was



Small Acreage, Range Management, & Natural Resources Extension Agent, but everyone knew Tom simply as the Ag Agent. Along with the general duties of being the local Ag Agent, Tom coached the 4-H Meats Judging Team, helped with livestock intake for both the County Fair and State Fair, and taught beekeeping classes in numerous counties. Tom is a strong proponent for emergency preparedness and he brought that element of his persona into work; helping with the Pueblo County Community Animal Resource Team (CART), assisting in redrafting the County's Emergency Plans, and teaching emergency preparedness to youth. He also would occasionally teach a class that he would refer to as a “heritage program.” Tying fishing flies and making ristras fell into this category and would quickly reach class capacity when advertised.

The Pueblo County Extension Team thanks Tom for his years of service and wishes him well in his future endeavors.