



PUEBLO COUNTY
COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY
EXTENSION

Pueblo County PATHWAYS

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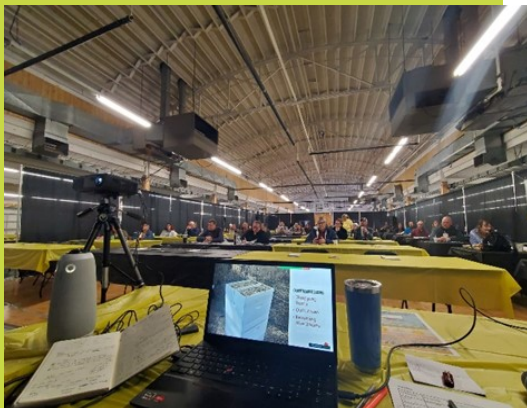
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2022 Bee Curious Event

In February, Ag Coordinator Beth DeLair teamed with the Pueblo County Beekeepers Association (PCBA) to hold the annual Bee School and Bee Curious Speaker Event. This year, with the goal of growing their audience, they used a hybrid format for both events. This allowed more participants to join virtually from all around the United States, as well as a larger selection of presenters. The Bee School was a two-day course that centered on various topics that are critical for new and current beekeepers such as bee biology, hive location considerations, gardening for honey bees, and more. Participants received a curriculum book that was created by members of the PCBA which includes many helpful articles on the management of bee hives. Along with the lecture portions of the class, participants also had an opportunity to go outside and learn how to set-up and use a smoker, put together hive boxes, scrape off honey for extraction, and many other hands-on learning opportunities. It was a great success and the PCBA is looking forward to the 2023 school event.

For the Speaker Event, the PCBA had a total of six speakers that ranged from local Colorado industry beekeepers to professors at Cornell, such as Dr. Thomas Seeley, who have spent decades studying bees and publishing many scientific papers and research concerning bee behavior and impact on the environment. The speaker event was paired with a community vendor and craft fair event with a total of over 27 vendors that had a variety of items for sale. This event exceeded the established expectations of attendance for both the in-person and virtual participation. The Pueblo County Beekeepers are very excited about their progress with these events and are looking forward to a continued partnership with Extension in upcoming years.





The Return of AgFest in 2022

After the cancellation of our event in 2021 due to Covid-19 restrictions, the highly anticipated AgFest event was back in full form in 2022. Extension Agents and Coordinators from Pueblo County collaborated with agents from around the state to provide “AgFest”, an agricultural educational event targeting 5th-grade students. Each classroom rotates through eight 20-minute stations addressing agriculture related topics such as wind energy, dairy, water cycles, embryology, food production, beef and soil. In 2022, the team completed two days of education, reaching 15 classes and over 300 children. Each student completed a pre and post-test in order to evaluate overall knowledge gained. On average, it was found that students’ knowledge on agriculture increased by over 30%. This event has continued to grow in size and popularity over the years and now requires a yearly waitlist to accommodate new and different classrooms. This program offers a fun field trip day for both the students and teachers, and certainly provides impactful educational resources on agriculture.

Several classrooms wrote thank you notes to the team after the event. Here are a few excerpts:

- *“Thank you for the great effort and planning this amazing trip!”*
- *“One of the stations I really enjoyed was the dairy station. Enjoyed getting to learn how to make our own butter, I never would have thought it was that easy.”*
- *“In conclusion, I learned so much at Agfest. I already wanted to have a career in Ag before I came but now I definitely want a career in Ag.”*
- *“I liked the beef station. I learned that there’s cows for different things.”*
- *“I liked the pollination station because we got to learn about the queen bee and how long bees live.”*
- *“I liked the station embryology. I learned how chicks are made. I never knew that it takes 21 days for a chick to hatch from an egg. It is amazing that I got to hold a chick and I got to watch a chick hatch from the egg.”*



Pueblo County Ag Expo 2022

Pueblo County Extension Ag team, Kristi Bartolo and Beth De Lair, hosted the first annual Pueblo Agriculture Expo which was held Thursday March 10, 2022 at the Colorado State Fairgrounds in the Creative Arts Building. This event was the first of its kind to be held in Pueblo so functioned as a smaller event on which to build. The purpose of the event was to bring great educational material and thought to both the local Pueblo and broader Colorado community of agricultural producers regarding Sustainable Agriculture. Attendees heard from speakers who were both locally based and collaborating partners from Colorado State University (CSU), Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) and Colorado Department of Agriculture (CDA). They covered a wide variety of topics relating to sustainable agriculture including how livestock and predators can live symbiotically, the great need for water preservation, the efficiencies that can be implemented to manage rangeland appropriately, and energy saving methods on the farm. The event began with a keynote talk and then split into breakout sessions. Participants were able to choose between four different sessions depending on their interests and needs. The event concluded with a catered meal and time to connect and interact with the speakers and fellow agricultural producers and community members. 21 people participated and because of the small size of the event, it was only held in-person. Presentations, however, can and will be shared so that those who were unable to attend are still able to access and learn from the material covered.

Funding for this event was provided through CSU's Western SARE Professional Development Grant Program. This grant required goals to be set to impart greater purpose to the event. The goals set forth were "to gain a better understanding of producers' mindset regarding sustainable agriculture" and whether they were "willing to implement more sustainable practices on their operations". When attendees were asked about what they thought of sustainable agriculture after attending the event, none selected "Do not agree with sustainable agriculture" on the evaluation sheet provided. This response shows support for a good perception of Sustainable Agriculture. No evidence was given in the comments that showed producers or community members being "threatened" by sustainable agriculture but most of the attendees felt they needed to learn more about this topic. The majority of participants indicated that they would consider implementing or using sustainable agriculture practices for their operations. It is the hope of the event organizers that agricultural producers and community members alike find the information presented at this event and in future events as a means to keep agriculture thriving in Pueblo and all throughout Colorado.

Overall, positive comments were noted on the evaluations with a great deal of verbal interest in proceeding with a similar event next year. Because this was a foundational event, the event organizers learned a great deal to improve the event in the future, including improvements to sound and audio, technology use, overcoming technology issues, and holding the event at a different building or venue. The Pueblo County Extension Ag Team looks forward to planning and providing a bigger and better event next year.





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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 \$50.00. Various online webinar dates are available Register at Eventbrite.com
- High Altitude Baking, May 4, 2022, 12PM-1PM, free, presented on zoom, register at <https://hab2022.eventbrite.com>
- Nutrition for Older Adults, May 25, 2022, 12PM-1PM, free, call for details, 719-583-6566
- Follow the FCS program on Facebook at: <https://www.facebook.com/PuebloFCS/>

Horticulture Programs

- Drip Irrigation, April 18, 2022, 2PM-4PM, \$5 per person, register at Eventbrite.com
- All Pueblo Grows Seed Library, collecting and packaging seeds. Look for neighborhood seed boxes. Visit: allpueblogrows.org
- 2022 CO Master Gardener Program Go to <https://pueblo.extension.colostate.edu> for more information about the program.
- <https://www.facebook.com/PuebloCountyHorticulture>

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

Agronomy/Ag/Range/Natural Resources

- <https://www.facebook.com/PuebloAg>

Follow Pueblo County Extension on Social Media

Instagram page at: <https://www.instagram.com/pueblocountyextension/> If you are using the app, you can find us at: @PuebloCountyExtension

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>

Welcome

The Pueblo County Extension office welcomed a new County employee on January 10, 2022. Alexandra (Lexi) Deary will be filling the Program Assistant position that was made vacant when Marnie Leinberger was promoted to office manager. We are excited about what Lexi will bring to the position, which mainly supports the 4-H program.



Lexi Deary

We'll let Lexi introduce herself:

"Hello, Pueblo County 4-H Families! My name is Alexandra Deary, and I am your new 4-H Program Assistant. I have my Bachelor's Degree in Mass Communications, and I have previously worked as an Administrative Assistant, Teacher, and Operations Coordinator. My hobbies include theatre, video games, and reading. I am so excited to join the 4-H team!"

Yard & Garden Classes Return

In Pueblo, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, CSU Extension's Yard and Garden class series has been exclusively online for the last two years. In 2022, we are happy to be bringing the series back to an in-person format. Gardeners all around the County have been enthusiastic to get back in the classroom and learn about research-based landscaping and gardening with like minded people.

Classes are coming out monthly and can be found on the CSU Extension website. Many of the classes will be taught by trained Master Gardener volunteers. For those who can't make it in for one of our in-person classes, we do have a wide selection of recorded online Yard and Garden classes on our website. No matter how you like to learn, CSU Extension-Pueblo County is here to guide you through the season!