



PUEBLO COUNTY

COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY
EXTENSION

Pueblo County PATHWAYS

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Ringin' in Fall with Ristras

To celebrate the season of Pueblo County local produce and to kick off the Chile & Frijole Festival week, FCS Agent Laura Griffin & Agricultural and Natural Resources Coordinator Beth DeLair collaborated on a fun make-and-take ristra class.

Although originally designed to preserve chile peppers for use in cooking over the winter, today's ristras also double as a popular home décor item. Participants in the class were given the choice of how they designed their ristras and how they ultimately used them.

This class discussed the history of the Pueblo Chile, the differences between the Pueblo and Hatch Chile and food safety tips for using dried ristras in cooking. We are happy to report this program was met with an incredible amount of enthusiasm, selling out over a month in advance with a significant waitlist as well. Plans are already underway for expanded ristra making opportunities next year!



Pueblo County Farm to Table Event



This past August, the Pueblo County Extension Ag Team hosted the first annual Farm to Table event, titled, “A Moveable Feast”. This event brought many members of the community together to engage in a more thorough discussion of Agriculture’s future in Pueblo County, especially concerning land and water. 25 farmers, ranchers, community supporters, and agricultural advocates participated in the event held at the former location of DiTomaso Farm’s farm stand which is situated right in the middle of the St Charles Mesa. Participants were surrounded by tomato, pepper, and alfalfa fields and were seated amongst farm tools and equipment under the old chili roasting shed.



Farm Credit of Southern Colorado very generously sponsored this event and SoulSmile Health and Wellness catered. The meal was prepared using much of the local produce from a variety of the farms in the area and other food items were sourced within Colorado. The menu consisted of stuffed Calabacita Squash, Vegetable Ratatouille, Corn Salad, and Palisade Peaches and Cream. It really showcased the amazing produce Pueblo County has to offer. Palmer Land Conservancy gave the keynote address touching on their role in preserving agricultural lands throughout Southeastern Colorado and their work now in Pueblo County. Palmer’s signature agricultural conservation initiative seeks to conserve a critical mass of productive irrigated farmland in Eastern Pueblo County in which more productive farmland will remain in use and irrigated while less productive ground will be reclaimed to native prairie. Through fair and rightful purchases, the Pueblo Board of Water Works acquired one third of the Bessemer Ditch, which supplies irrigation water to all farmers in Pueblo County and is currently leasing the purchased water back to farmers.

Eventually, when this water is called upon, farmers will be able to voluntarily transfer their remaining water rights from less productive to more productive cropland through Palmer’s conservation efforts. This will aid the community both economically and socially because they will still have access to quality produce grown on fertile soil and profits from produce sales will be put right back into the community by farmers.



At the event, from the address given by Palmer, great discussion resulted and community members were able to ask questions, receive clarification, and better understand the potential impacts of loss of agricultural land and water. The Extension Ag Team plans to host more of events similar to this bringing other important agricultural topics to the table while sharing a locally prepared meal together.

Pueblo Community Animal Response Team – Livestock Division

The Pueblo County Community Animal Response Team-Livestock Division (C.A.R.T.- L.D.) has had a fantastic year of volunteer recruitment and mock drills. The team is responsible for all livestock evacuation and shelter needs for Pueblo County during emergency events.

As Colorado faces a new fire season each year this team is a critical community resource. In August of this year, the team conducted their first 2022 mock drill at Liberty Landing Stables in Pueblo West. A total of 18 volunteers and five situation actors participated. The team had to set up a shelter area and handle the actor situations as a team. They dealt with wounded animals, biosecurity concerns, upset public members, and so much more. This drill was a great success and truly highlighted the teamwork that comes from being properly trained volunteers.

To become a Pueblo C.A.R.T. volunteer, individuals must attend a volunteer orientation course, attend a mock drill, and complete FEMA courses 100 & 700. All the trainings offered by C.A.R.T. are free and available to anyone in the community. Current trainings have focused on animal handling of livestock species such as swine, cattle, sheep, goats, horses, donkeys, mules, llamas, alpacas, poultry, and rabbits. These trainings include classroom workshops and outdoor live animal experiences. You can join the team without any prior animal knowledge as we have many volunteer team spots that don't require animal handling. We met at a minimum of once a month starting January – November.

By joining the team, you are also able to attend trainings put on by other counties surrounding Pueblo, have a designated C.A.R.T. shirt, and other personalized team items. Want to join the team? To check out our ongoing volunteer orientation, for additional information, or if you have other questions, reach out Beth De Lair, Incident Commander for the Pueblo Livestock C.A.R.T. Team, at delairb@pueblocounty.us or give her a call at 719-251-0245.





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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
- Free pressure gauge testing. Call 719-583-6566 for appointment.
- Follow the FCS program on Facebook at: <https://www.facebook.com/PuebloFCS/>

Horticulture Programs

- Houseplant Workshop, December 9, 2022, 1PM-3PM, \$10 per person, register at <https://houseplants.eventbrite.com>
- 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

- Ongoing Club and County Programs
- Currently enrolling new and returning members. Call Jen at 719-583-6573 for information.
- Follow us on Facebook and YouTube

Agronomy/Ag/Range/Natural Resources

- Just Some Pumpkin Fun, Oct. 27, 4PM-6PM. \$5 per person, register at pumpkinfun.sue.eventbrite.com
- <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

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New Hires

We've hired a new Program Assistant. Monica Grosso started with us on Monday, August 8, 2022, and will be working primarily with our Agronomy Agent and Ag & Natural Resources Coordinator. We'll let Monica introduce herself.



Monica Grosso

"I am a mother of two wonderful boys, Liam and Asher, ages 11 and 4. I am married to a great man, Joe, for the last 5 years. We have two dogs and a cat who are joyful additions to our family. My family is my life. I enjoy vacationing, playing outside, gardening, crocheting, and reading a good book. I have lots of customer service experience working as a server/bartender, in retail, and have lots of office experience working in a variety of office settings including Pueblo County Planning and Development. I have an associate degree in Computer Information Sciences - Networking Security and have Certificates in CIS Networking, CIS Security, and I am a Certified Notary Public."



CSU Extension-Pueblo County has also hired a new 4-H Youth Development Coordinator, Dorothy Welbourne.

"Hi, my name is Dorothy Welbourne, I am the new 4-H Youth Development Coordinator. I was a long time 4-H member and as a youth, 4-H projects were a way of expressing creativity through my love of art, outdoor activities and animals. I also served several years as a 4-H Club leader and as a 4-H conference judge. I have seven years of experience as a 4-H staff member. Before that I had my own mowing business and worked several years on a farrow-to-finish operation. I have a Bachelor of Arts degree."