



PUEBLO COUNTY
COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY
EXTENSION

Pueblo County PATHWAYS

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Drought Meeting

In conjunction with the South Pueblo County and Turkey Creek Conservation Districts and with funding from a mini-grant provided by Western SARE, Pueblo County Extension Specialist Kristi Bartolo, hosted a “part 2” Drought Meeting. A similar event was held last year covering the basics of “what is drought” and how it affects Agriculture in Pueblo. The goal of this year’s event was to expand on that and dive deeper into still being successful in Agriculture with weather extremes, especially drought. The Conservation District’s Work-group meeting and the Drought Event were held together, this past June at the Vineland United Methodist Event Hall. Approximately 35 farmers, ranchers and community members gathered together to hear from a variety of speakers and engage in productive discussion on strategies for farming successfully in drought.

This event occurred during the midst of the multiple rainstorms occurring in Pueblo County and so it seemed almost trivial to be discussing drought. Participants learned however, that this year’s monsoon may be more minimal than usual, with drier weather on the way. This information came from the two weathermen speakers, Brian Bledsoe of KKTU11 News and Klint Skelly of the National Weather Service office located in Pueblo. Klint and Brian discussed seasonal forecasts, what to expect this growing season in regard to weather, and how the various ocean patterns, El Nino and La Nina effect this area. They provided the audience with relevant and timely information that set a base for the other two speaker topics. AJ Brown, Data Specialist & Agronomist for the CSU Agriculture Water Quality Program, talked with the group about improved irrigation strategies like understanding how much water a crop needs to grow properly. The final speaker, Ron Meyer, CSU Extension Agronomist, brought some understanding of various crops that require less water to grow and also shared different management practices that improve soil moisture even during dry periods.

Dinner was provided at this free event through the generosity of the Conservation Districts and all participants were able to bring home a Drought Planning Handbook

(funded through the mini-grant) produced by CSU and the partners of the Colorado Drought Advisors. Events such as this allow farmers, ranchers and the whole community to come together to learn and share about real topics that matter to them all. With the knowledge and materials participants gained, Pueblo County can continue being successful in agriculture for generations to come.



Speakers inform attendees of how weather extremes may affect crops.

“Me, You & the Zoo!” Adventure Day Camp 2023

Adventure Day Camp (ADC) was first conceived in 2006 as a low-cost way for Pueblo youth to be introduced to Positive Youth Development (PYD) programs and practices. Sponsored by Colorado State University Extension and Pueblo County 4-H, this 3-day camp grew to be a Pueblo Community favorite and has served thousands of youth aged Kindergarten through 5th Grade since its conception.

In 2017, through staff turnover and other challenges, Adventure Day Camp was cancelled and the program dropped from CSU Extension’s program cycle. In 2023, it was the goal of CSU Extension in Pueblo County to provide Adventure Day Camp again as a valuable community opportunity. Through the support of our various sponsors, volunteer and community support, Adventure Day Camp was successfully completed on June 6-8 this year.

The goals of Adventure Day Camp, through support of CSU Extension and 4-H, was to provide youth-positive, targeted programming in areas of Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics (STEM), health and wellbeing, nutrition, civic engagement and experiential learning. ADC provides youth in Pueblo County a valuable learning experience at low cost—coming out to only \$25.00 per camper, with the opportunity for a 50% or 100% percent discounted scholarship for especially needy families. Altogether, Adventure Day Camp served 33 campers in Pueblo County this year and impacted the lives of dozens of families throughout the process.

This year, with the theme “Me, You & the Zoo!” Campers spent their time learning about all kinds of different animals—from the elephants living on the savannah, to the common birds living in their backyards. Campers had the opportunity to come face to face with several types of animals, including rabbits, a turkey, goats, miniature pony, and a bearded dragon. Campers also had fun creating fun take-home crafts and activities and participated in a service-learning opportunity by creating feral cat warming houses, which were donated to JJ’s Helping Paws cat rescue.

Through a post-camp survey, parents were encouraged to leave comments regarding camp. Parents/guardians had the following to say: *“I hope this is offered every year to the community. It was a great way to introduce him to 4-H and we cannot wait to sign up when enrollment opens. I'm hoping he has a great experience with it just like camp...I think many people would benefit from introduction to 4H through events like this.”*

“Adventure Day camp was a great and fun experience for my child. He enjoyed the time he was there, the things he got to do, and the friends he made...My child was sad for it to end. He has been talking about all the things he did during his time there and how he wished he got to do more.”

The event would not have been possible without the support of our 4-H Adult and youth Volunteers, and the CSU Extension Pueblo County Master Gardeners. The 4-H youth leaders and adult volunteers provided a grand total of 457 hours during staff training and Adventure Day Camp itself during this project. According to Philanthropy Colorado, an hour of volunteer time is valued at \$31.51. Altogether, the volunteer value of this project comes out to \$14,400.07. This is direct value-added to the community of Pueblo.

CSU Extension looks forward to providing Adventure Day Camp in the future, and would like to thank the following Sponsors:



Top to bottom: Campers painted houses for feral cats; were introduced to farm animals; played group games, explored the zoo.



Western Landscape Symposium

The Western Landscape Symposium was back in 2023 after a long hiatus due to the COVID-19 pandemic. To say the event was welcomed back with open arms would be an understatement! Participants new and old were thrilled to have the symposium back. Before we did any advertising, tickets were already selling, and kept selling until they were sold out.

Esteemed keynote speaker Panayoti Kelaidis of the Denver Botanic Gardens drew a flock of 250 + gardeners to hear about plants that will thrive in the harsh Pueblo summers. His colleague, Mike Kintgen, joined him to speak about how to create landscapes that are not only beautiful, but sustainable as well. We kept the sustainability theme going strong with Dr. Tony Koski coming to speak about how to successfully convert a lawn to something more water wise.

The symposium added something new this year in hopes of attracting a more diverse audience and meeting the needs of our community. We had two speakers come to give presentation on topics in the edible gardening realm. Monique Marez joined us to inspire folks to grow food at home in a time of supply chain and food security uncertainties. There was standing room only to hear Tammi Hartung from Desert Canyon Farms talk about propagating edible herbs and native plants.

The symposium also added an expanded vendor section, and designated time for speaker meet and greets.

The support from our sponsors, speakers, participants, and especially the planning committee made a strong comeback possible. We have exciting things in store for the 2024 Western Landscape Symposium, so keep watching!



Photos: Left: Over 250 people fill the ballroom for the keynote address; Top to Bottom: Keynote Speaker Panayoti Kelaidis; Standing room only at breakout session; Vendor shows cactus to customer; Expo room with community partners and demonstrations.





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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
- 2023 Food Preservation Series, visit <https://pueblo.extension.colostate.edu/> for class dates and registration information
- Free pressure gauge testing. Call 719-583-6566 for appointment.
- Follow the FCS program on Facebook at: <https://www.facebook.com/PuebloFCS/>

Horticulture Programs

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

4-H/Youth Development

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

Agronomy/Ag/Range/Natural Resources

- Agriculture Homeschool Enrichment, Fri. July 21, 10:00 AM at the Pueblo County Fair
- Farm Tour and Ice Cream Making Excursion, Sat. July 29, 9:00 AM, \$15.00, register at <https://FarmIceCream23.eventbrite.com>
- <https://www.facebook.com/PuebloAg>

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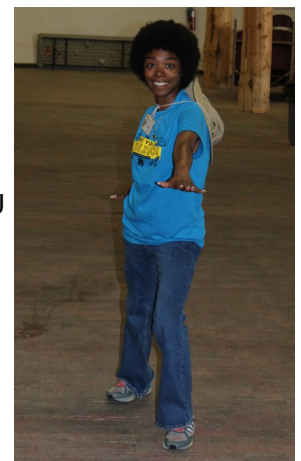


Crazy for Cookies!

Family & Consumer Science Specialist Laura Griffin introduced a fun new series of classes this spring focused on cookies! Topics covered in these classes included: high altitude baking tips, high altitude tested recipes, best baking practices, and an intro into royal icing decorating tools and tips. These hands-on classes allowed attendees to go through the full process of baking and decorating cookies, with plenty of taste testing as well! Royal icing cookies are an allowable item to sell through the Colorado Cottage Food Act, which Laura provides certification for. These baking classes were met with tremendous enthusiasm, and all sold out quickly. Keep an eye out for the next series to be announced.

Summer Intern

CSU Extension– Pueblo County welcomes Shay Wilson, our Summer 4-H Program Intern from CSU -Pueblo! Shay comes to us with former 4-H experience, and is currently completing her Psychology Major at CSU-Pueblo.



Shay will be helping with Adventure Day Camp and other summer activities in the 4-H area this summer.

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>