



PUEBLO COUNTY
COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY
EXTENSION

Pueblo County PATHWAYS

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AgFest!

The annual AgFest event has become one of the most anticipated programs of the year for CSU Extension and this year was no exception. Extension Specialists and Coordinators from Pueblo County collaborated with specialists from neighboring counties to provide an agricultural educational event targeting 5th graders. Each classroom rotates through eight 20-minute stations addressing agriculture-related topics such as wind energy, dairy, embryology, food production, beef byproducts, pollination, and soil. This year, the team had 3 fully scheduled days combining for a total of 21 classes and over 400 students.

Each student completed a pre and post-test to evaluate overall knowledge gained. On average, it was found that students' knowledge on agriculture increased by 40%. This event has continued to grow in popularity over the years and now requires a yearly waitlist to accommodate new and different classrooms. It is the goal of the CSU Extension Office to engage with as many different schools and classrooms in order to share this program broadly throughout Pueblo and Fremont County. This program offers a fun field trip day for both the kids and teachers, and certainly provides impactful educational resources on agriculture.

2024 Western Landscape Symposium

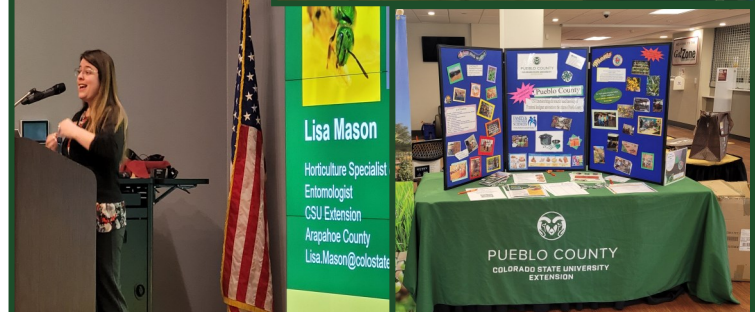
The Western Landscape Symposium was again a huge success in 2024. With an immensely popular keynote speaker, an expanded vendor and demo section, and a local celebrity emcee, it may have been the best one yet!

This year we were thrilled to book Dr. Doug Tallamy, author of the book *Natures Best Hope* as our keynote speaker. He spoke about his “Homegrown National Park” project, which encourages people to create habitat in their own yards, to connect the fragmented areas of natural habitat that we have currently in the US.

We also had amazing breakout sessions on topics such as pollinator/plant relationships, edible weeds, sustainable gardening, and native plants. The audience was very engaged with our speakers and preliminary survey results indicate they learned a lot and were inspired by our sessions. We also had Nick Donovan as our emcee, he did an amazing job progressing us through the day and introducing our speakers.

We had vendor and demonstration areas to entertain our guests during breaks. They could buy plants, learn new gardening skills, and engage with local community partners.

We look forward to hosting this premier gardening conference every year and spreading knowledge about sustainable landscaping in the arid west. We are looking forward to see what 2025 brings!



Important: Training for Farm Employees

The final rule for the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Worker Protection Standard (WPS) was published in 2015 with updates in 2018. This regulation requires that all employees of farms or agricultural operations be trained in pesticide safety. To ensure employees are properly trained and advised on the use of pesticides and their hazards, the EPA created a myriad of resources and training videos to provide to employees. Along with pesticide safety, agricultural employees should also receive training for Heat Illness Prevention (HIP) as described in a Senate Bill passed in 2021, which implemented a variety of worker protections (SB 21-87).



Farmers in Pueblo County work to provide WPS and HIP training in order to remain in compliance with state and federal regulations. This past March, however, the farmers of Pueblo County were given a hand at providing the training. Agronomy Specialist Kristi Bartolo became a certified trainer and then offered WPS and HIP training to the Spanish speaking farm employees who had already made the trip to Pueblo from Mexico on their H2A program visas. Thirty-five farm employees from three different farms attended the training which consisted of in-depth pesticide discussion, what Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) is and why it is important to stay safe around pesticides. They also watched the EPA approved video on pesticide safety. HIP training was also given at the same time with a discussion on what signs to look for in someone experiencing heat illness, the difference between heat exhaustion and heat stroke and how to prevent these.

CSU Extension Southern Region Spanish Language Specialist, Claudia Terrazas, helped with interpretation for the farm employees and relayed all questions and subsequent answers to and from the employees. This training not only helped the farmers to fulfil regulatory requirements but also gave the employees an opportunity to learn more about pesticide safety as it relates to their direct work through the various examples given and to engage with their coworkers on these topics to gain a better understanding and relatability.

This training class was well received and will be offered a few more time this growing season to ensure that all agricultural employees in Pueblo County remain safe and healthy while performing the important work of helping to grow the fresh produce that the Pueblo community loves.



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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](https://www.eventbrite.com)
- Exploring Herbs– From Dirt to Delicious Dishes, May 22, 1:00-3:00 p.m. Fee: \$20.00, register at [herbs_2024.eventbrite.com](https://www.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

- All Pueblo Grows Seed Library, collecting and packaging seeds. Look for neighborhood seed boxes. Visit: allpueblogrows.org
- Dahlias! May 17, 11:00a.m.-12:00p.m., Fee: \$5.00 register at [dahlias.eventbrite.com](https://www.eventbrite.com)
- Monthly Lunch and Learn sessions. Call 719-583-6574 for details
- 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

- Worker Protection Standards Pesticide Training, May 22, Free, call 583-6566 for info
- Backyard Poultry Class, May 11, 1:00-3:00 p.m., Fee: \$15.00, register at [Eventbrite.com](https://www.eventbrite.com)
- <https://www.facebook.com/PuebloAg>

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Master Gardener Help Line

By Alyson Buchanan, CMG

Pueblo County Extension offers a Help Line that is staffed by Colorado Master Gardeners (CMGs) to help home gardeners with identifying and troubleshooting all types of horticulture issues. The Help Line is staffed on Tuesdays and Fridays between 9AM-11AM and 2PM-4PM from April 1st through September 30th. You may contact the Help Line using one of the following methods:

- Email pueblomastergardener@gmail.com. Provide as much information as possible about the issue or question you have. Include information such as your phone number, where you are located within the county (neighborhood), Attach photos of the problem if possible, name of the plant involved, if you know it. A CMG will follow-up with you.
- Call 719-583-6566 to discuss an issue with a CMG when the Help Line is staffed or leave a message with your e-mail and as much information as possible about the issue, see above examples, and a CMG will follow-up with you.
- Walk-in to the Extension office at 701 Court St. when the Help Line is staffed with your questions, photos, plant clippings, insect samples, etc., to begin the diagnostic process. If you come in when the Help Line is not staffed and leave contact information, a CMG will follow-up with you.

The Pueblo County Extension Office hopes that each of these horticulture resources will enable you to have a successful 2024 gardening season. The Pueblo County Extension Master Gardeners look forward to helping you identify issues early and offer resolution alternatives.