



PUEBLO COUNTY  
COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY  
EXTENSION

# Pueblo County PATHWAYS

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## This Issue:

- Drought Meeting 2024
- Pueblo 4-H Members Shine at State Conference
- Welcome New Staff Member
- Award Winners
- Upcoming Events
- Courthouse West Entrance Facelift



Photo by Kristi Bartolo

## Drought Meeting 2024

Pueblo County Extension Agronomy Specialist, Kristi Bartolo, hosted the 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Drought Meeting in partnership with the South Pueblo County and Turkey Creek Conservation Districts. This event has become a staple for the farmers and ranchers of the area and is a wonderful collaboration with the conservation districts who also hold their Work Group meeting at the same event. This year's gathering focused less on drought specifically and looked more into water related topics and its affects on Agriculture in Pueblo County. The events were held this past June at the McHarg Park Community Center in Avondale. Approximately 25 farmers, ranchers, and community members gathered together to hear from a CSU water expert and engage in productive discussion on strategies for farming successfully with the water that is available.

Participants learned all about irrigation methods and opportunities to improve efficiencies in irrigation from CSU's Water Center Extension Regional Water Specialist, Joel Schneekloth. He talked with the group about improved irrigation strategies like understanding how much water a crop needs to grow properly and how to apply the water so that plants can use as much of that water as possible, without it leaching below the root zone. The speaker tied all parts of the talk together with a question-and-answer session at the end and helped the participants understand that the water improvements can take some time to implement and should be adjusted to fit each individual's operation best. Farmers and community members left the meeting with the knowledge of different management practices that can improve soil moisture even during dry periods.



The meeting began with recognition of a long-time conservation district board member for his 30 plus years of service on the board as he stepped down at the meeting. Dinner followed, which was sponsored by the generosity of the Conservation Districts and all participants were able to bring home various resource pages with information on the County's Ag statistics (from the most recently published Agricultural Census) and water related information and guides. 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.

# Pueblo 4-H Members Shine at State Conference

The 2024 Colorado State 4-H Conference was a showcase of talent, commitment, and hard work, and our Pueblo County 4-H members shone brightly throughout the event. We are immensely proud to celebrate their remarkable achievements and contributions.

Awarded for their outstanding involvement in the 4-H program, Maya Bigler and Sam Valenzuela received multiple 4-H scholarships during the Wednesday evening awards banquet. Their academic excellence, leadership, and active involvement in various 4-H activities earned them this prestigious recognition. Maya and Sam's dedication to their personal growth and the 4-H community exemplifies the true spirit of 4-H, and we congratulate them on this well-deserved honor.

Excelling in the Impromptu Public Speaking Contest, Lacie Laca emerged as the High Overall Individual making her eligible to represent Colorado 4-H at the National 4-H Roundup in January 2025. Lacie's ability to think on her feet and articulate her thoughts with confidence and clarity earned her top honors. Her achievement in this challenging category highlights her exceptional communication skills and poise under pressure. Well done, Lacie!

Braiden Pfeiffer was named the Outstanding 4-H Youth Leader of the Year, a testament to his exemplary leadership and dedication. Braiden consistently demonstrates outstanding leadership qualities, mentors younger members, and contributes positively to 4-H and his community. His commitment to fostering a supportive and enriching environment for all members has made a significant impact. Congratulations, Braiden, on this commendable achievement!

The combined Pueblo/Otero County Livestock Judging Team, featuring Pueblo members Cashley Chambers, Paige Parker, and Joslyn Fuller, achieved an impressive 3rd place in the Livestock Quiz Bowl. Their teamwork, extensive knowledge, and competitive spirit were key to their success. We are proud of their collaborative effort and dedication to excelling in this challenging contest.

In addition to these individual and team accolades, all attending members participated in a variety of enriching workshops. These sessions covered vital topics such as leadership, family and consumer science, and STEM. Through these workshops, our members expanded their knowledge, honed their skills, and engaged in hands-on learning experiences, further preparing them for future successes both within and beyond the 4-H community.

We extend our heartfelt congratulations to all our 4-H members for their remarkable achievements at the 2024 Colorado State 4-H Conference. Their hard work, dedication, and passion for 4-H make us proud and inspires others to strive for excellence. We look forward to celebrating more successes in the future!



*Pueblo State Conference Delegates: Braiden Pfeiffer, Lance Mayne, Jazlyn Duran, Maya Bigler, Lacie Laca, Sam Valenzuela*



*Outstanding Youth Leader of the Year Braiden Pfeiffer*



*Impromptu Speech Winner, Lacie Laca*

## Welcoming a New Staff Member

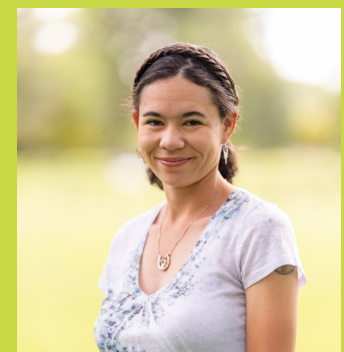
CSU Extension in Pueblo County is thrilled to have welcomed our new 4-H Specialist, Lillian Esterl-Byrne in April. We will let Lillian introduce herself...

I grew up in Arvada, CO and participated in 4-H throughout my youth years primarily in the horse project. Following high school, I attended Colorado State University and earned my bachelor's degree in Equine Science with a minor in agricultural business. During my time at CSU, I competed on the horse judging team and was a member of the Department of Animal Science Stewards serving as an ambassador at local and national events. I then went on to earn my master's degree in Animal Science from Tarleton State University in Stephenville, TX where my thesis research focused on equine welfare. While completing my master's, I served as the assistant horse judging coach and taught several undergraduate courses. Shortly after graduation, I accepted a position at the National Reining Horse Association where I assisted in developing and implementing educational curriculum for judges, stewards, and professionals.

I am thrilled to be back in Colorado near the mountains that I love to explore in my free time. When not at work, you can most likely find me hiking, paddle boarding, or enjoying a sunny afternoon riding my quarter horse gelding. I'm excited to be a part of the CSU Extension team here in Pueblo and I look forward to the opportunity to help make the best better by serving the 4-H community throughout the county.



*Monica Grosso—Outstanding Administrative Support*



*Beth Hayes— Excellence in Volunteer Management*

### *Award Winners*

Congratulations to our staff members who won awards at our recent CSU Extension Southern Regional Meeting.

Monica Grosso was named the 2024 Outstanding Administrative Support in the Southern Region for her work with the Pueblo County Agronomy and Ag/Natural Resources programs.

Beth Hayes received the 2024 Extending Excellence Award in the category of Volunteer Manager for her work with the Pueblo County Community Animal Response Team— Livestock Division.



## 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
- Tomatoes: Growing, Using And Preserving, Aug 14, 1:00-3:00 p.m., Fee: \$10.00, register on 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](http://allpueblogrows.org)
- Monthly Lunch and Learn sessions. Call 719-583-6574 for details
- Master Gardener Help Line, Tuesdays and Fridays, 9:00-11:00 a.m. and 2:00-4:00 p.m.
- 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

- Farm to Table Dinner, Aug.17, 6:30 p.m., Fee: \$25.00, register on Eventbrite.com
- Produce Bus Tour, Aug 3, 8:30 a.m.-2:00 p.m., Fee: \$25.00, lunch included. Register on Eventbrite.
- <https://www.facebook.com/PuebloAg>

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## Courthouse West Entrance Facelift



Recently, Pueblo County finished a project to re-vamp the west entrance of the Historic Courthouse making it ADA accessible. The CSU Extension office in Pueblo County was privileged to participate in the project by planting the flower beds installed at the new entrance. Horticulture Specialist Amanda Weidner, and County Director Sherie Shaffer teamed up to design and plant the beds with a focus on sustainable, water-wise plants that are not only beautiful but practical choices for our area.

We hope that the beds can serve as inspiration to people visiting the courthouse, showing them how sustainable plants can look beautiful in a home landscape. Check out the QR code for a video produced by Pueblo County of the ribbon cutting of the new west entrance.

