



PUEBLO COUNTY
COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY
EXTENSION

Pueblo County PATHWAYS

3rd Quarter 2024
Volume 11 Issue 3

This Issue:

- Summer Ag Programs
- Master Gardeners
- Pueblo County Fair
- Ristra Make and Take
- Upcoming Events



Summer Programs Get an Ag Perspective

This past summer, kids at various summer camps became a little more knowledgeable about agriculture, both broadly and in Pueblo County. Agronomy Specialist Kristi Bartolo provided some ag education to four different summer programs through the Library District, CSU Pueblo's STEM camp, Pueblo Community College's TRIO group and CSU Pueblo's USDA camp. Kids ranged in age from 3 years old up to high school, and topics covered included water, soil, and plants. A total of 38 kids participated in the agricultural portions of the camps and got a better understanding through hands-on projects and interactive discussion.

At the Library program and CSU-P STEM camp, students learned all about irrigation. They built river systems and learned how water moves under ground and what that water can be used for in agriculture. They also worked with irrigation equipment to determine the most efficient methods of irrigating. The PCC TRIO group tagged along on three different field trips hearing from farm and ranch owners and water experts. Hearing directly from operators helped them to gain a wider perspective towards agriculture and why it is so important. They learned about water flow and quality on the Bessemer Ditch, sampled soils from the 3R Ranch, and taste-tested Pueblo Chile at Mauro Farms and Bakery. CSU-P's USDA camp students also visited a farm, Nola Naturals, where they learned about organic production and the promotion of soil health to improve the ecosystem.

Though each group participated in different activities and learned different aspects of agriculture, they all had a chance to better understand why agriculture is important, especially in Pueblo County. Each class was built on the basics that food comes from agricultural endeavors and that there are many opportunities to participate in agriculture without being a farmer or rancher. The kids who attended the camps will now be able to better appreciate the effort and care taken in agriculture to utilize natural resources equitably and sustainably for a better future.

Though the summer has drawn to a close, more programs are being planned to make sure the next group of kids can experience agriculture as well.



A Busy Gardener is a Happy Gardener

This year's growing season has certainly been a busy one! The Master Gardeners kicked it off hosting a booth at the Home and Garden Show at the State Fairgrounds in early March and we haven't slowed down since.

Some of our other public appearances have included educational booths at a Friday Art Walk, a Zoo Fundraising Plant Sale at Walter's Brewery, the north-side Walmart's Garden Center kickoff event, the County's Self-care Health Fair, a local farm's community event, and an Earth Day event at the courthouse!

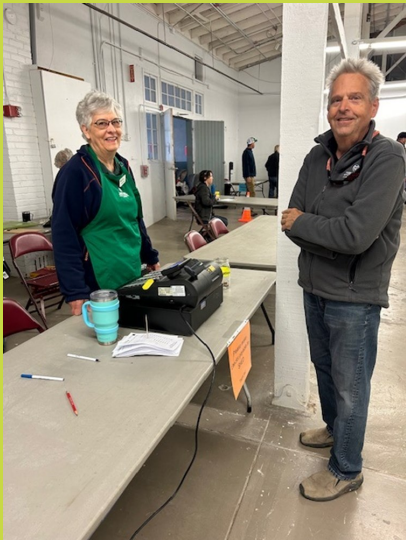
Happily, we were invited to participate in educational programming at two local elementary schools where kids from kindergarten through second grade were taught about how seeds are created and then got to plant their own to take home. Another of our Master Gardeners, a veteran herself, volunteered at a garden-planting event at a local Veteran's Home where she brought in many of her own homegrown vegetable starts and seeds and assisted veterans in getting it all in the ground.

You could also find our Master Gardeners volunteering at this year's Western Landscape Symposium at the end of March where we welcomed in folks from Pueblo and around the state who came to see bestselling author and ecologist, Dr. Doug Tallamy, speak on the topic of creating habitats in our own backyards.

Because the questions never stop coming, even when we're busy, we also have volunteers staffing our Help Desk each week. They work to research and answer questions that come in from across the county about all things gardening including pests, turf, flowers, native plants, and more from April through September. In the same vein, oftentimes the Master Gardens host a question-and-answer table at Fox's Garden Supply on Saturday mornings to assist the public with any gardening issues they may be interested in.

As if that wasn't enough, it's our Master Gardener and community member volunteers who lead and orchestrate the All Pueblo Grows Seed Library that makes seed packets free and available to the community throughout the growing season. These folks take in, sort, package, distribute, track, and organize, making sure to guarantee that the libraries are well-supplied. It's also their hard work that offers up a free public presentation each month on a seasonal gardening topic and teaches attendees how to save their own seeds and become part of the seed-saving cycle.

Yes, this is a laundry list of amazing work and outreach that has created countless connections over these last few months-and I could go on-but what I really want to acknowledge is just how lucky we in Pueblo are to have such a vibrant and inspired volunteer group as the Pueblo County Master Gardeners. Working with them is a joy and I'm grateful they choose to share their time and expertise with the rest of our community!



Highlights from the 2024 Pueblo County Fair:

Celebrating Resilience and Positivity

The 2024 Pueblo County Fair was a vibrant celebration of more than just awards and titles. It was a gathering of young people who brought their energy, positivity, and resilience to create an unforgettable event. Every challenge faced and every smile shared reminded us of what 4-H is all about – perseverance, community, and embracing joy through every experience.

One of the fair's highlights was an imaginative, sea-themed scavenger hunt, thanks to Braiden Pfeiffer's creativity and commitment. His efforts transformed the fairgrounds into a place of adventure and discovery, captivating young fairgoers who eagerly followed his clues. His scavenger hunt became a cherished part of this year's fair, where kids could come together to explore, laugh, and enjoy the excitement he had so thoughtfully planned.

Despite falling ill just before county fair, Maya Bigler showed up to support her fellow 4-H'ers as a dedicated teen clerk during Exhibit Day. Unfortunately, her illness meant she was unable to show her goats in her final year of 4-H, yet her selflessness and commitment left an indelible mark. As she graduates and moves on to new adventures, we wish her all the success she deserves.

Known for his generous spirit, Jude Carlson made a lasting impact as both a participant and valuable helper in the dog project, while also succeeding in shooting sports. His willingness to lend a hand wherever needed throughout the fair brightened the experience for everyone around him. He showed great skill in both projects, but his genuine enthusiasm and warm presence made him a standout this year, inspiring others to join in and lend their own helping hands.

Meanwhile, Eve Clark balanced the demands of her many projects while also being a vital part of the short-staffed Chill Grill ran by the Pueblo County 4-H Globetrotters Club. Her dedication ensured that fairgoers always had food on hand, and her work behind the counter kept the fair energized and running smoothly. Her tireless commitment to both her exhibits and the fair as a whole reflected her love for the 4-H community.

This year, Madelyn Blanchard's journey with her horse was one of growth and perseverance. Although their bond was challenging at first, her commitment to improving and building trust never wavered. The joy she found in simply being with her horse, regardless of her class placings, reminded everyone that 4-H is about developing passion and enjoying the process as much as the results.

Even after receiving a participation ribbon due to a rule about shoes in his Exhibit Day division, Daniel Evans took it all in stride. Instead of letting the setback overshadow his achievements, he went on to shine in the Fashion Revue, proudly displaying his creative work and winning his age division. His determination and positive attitude left a lasting impression on judges and audience members alike, proving that success lies in how challenges are embraced.

These moments from the 2024 Pueblo County Fair reflect the spirit and dedication of our 4-H members. Each young person brought their unique story, resilience, and joy to the fair, turning challenges into triumphs and showing the power of a positive outlook. Through their hard work and passion, they inspired everyone around them and reminded us all that 4-H is not only about the ribbons won but also the friendships made, lessons learned, and memories created. This year's fair will be cherished for years to come as one filled with unforgettable experiences and inspiring accomplishments.



Jude Carlson



Braiden Pfeiffer



Eve Clark



PUEBLO COUNTY
COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY
EXTENSION

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

- **Monthly Lunch and Learn sessions. Call 719-583-6574 for details**
- **Follow the Horticulture program on Facebook at: <https://www.facebook.com/PuebloCountyHorticulture>**

4-H/Youth Development

- **Ongoing Club and County Programs**
- **Follow 4-H on Facebook at: <https://www.facebook.com/PuebloCounty4H/>**

Agronomy/Ag/Range/Natural Resources

- **Follow Pueblo County Ag on Facebook at: <https://www.facebook.com/PuebloAg>**
- **Check out Pueblo County Ag upcoming Events at: <https://pueblo.extension.colostate.edu/programs/agriculture-natural-resources/ag-classes/>**

Follow Pueblo County Extension on Instagram

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>

Red Hot Ristras!



Family and Consumer Science Specialist Laura Griffin & Agriculture and Natural Resources Specialist Beth Hayes celebrated September by hosting the 3rd annual make-and-take ristra class.

Although originally designed to preserve chile peppers for use in cooking over the winter, today ristras also double as a popular home décor item and are a well-recognized staple of Pueblo Chile culture.

This class educated participants on the history of the Pueblo Chile, the differences between the Pueblo and Hatch Chile and important food safety tips for proper storage and usage of ristras when cooking. Each year this class is met with incredible enthusiasm and continues to sell out with a lengthy waitlist. Special thanks to Milberger Farms this year for hosting and helping to put on this event to accommodate our largest crowd yet!

