



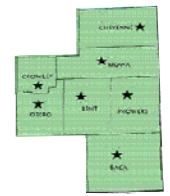
Extension

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Quarterly Report



To: Board of County Commissioners

This quarterly report summarizes major educational programming in the fourth quarter of 2011 from Southeast Area *Extension*. We are grateful for the continued support of the counties. If you have any questions, suggestions or would like more specific information about these or other Extension programs, feel free to meet with any member of our staff.

Pesticide Applicator Continuing Education Credit Workshop

Since 2007, the Colorado Department of Agriculture (CDA) is conducting all phases of the pesticide applicator program. The program includes pesticide applicator licensing, compliance assistance and education, pesticide misuse investigations, Worker Protection Standard (WPS) inspections, and continuing education for licensure. The goals of the pesticide applicator program are to ensure that private and commercial pesticide applicators have the requisite knowledge to handle and to ensure that pesticides are applied in a manner which reduces unnecessary associated hazards.

Private and commercial applicators are required to either attend continuing education workshops or retest to renew their licenses every three years. The Colorado Environmental Pesticide Education Program (CEPE) and Colorado State University Extension (CSU Extension) are working together to offer continuing education credits to private and commercial applicators.

Last December, Thia Walker, CSU Pesticide Education Specialist, and Wilma Trujillo, CSU Extension's SEA Agronomist, conducted three Pesticide Applicator Continuing Education Credit Workshops in Southeast Colorado. These workshops were attended by 65 pesticide applicators in Springfield, Eads and Lamar. The educational program provided the required continuing education core credits to private and commercial applicators holding valid CDA licenses. The workshops provided **accurate, up-to-date information** on pesticide laws and regulations, pesticide safety for applicators and the general public, pesticides and their families, and uses of pesticides. Commercial applicators also earned continuing education credits on the following categories: Agricultural Insect, Agricultural Weed Control, and Agricultural Plant Disease.

Colorado State University Extension's Southeast Area is committed to continue working with farmers and ranchers to make pesticide application safer, not only for the applicators, but for the general public and the environment.

Agriculture & Natural Resources

“Anaerobic Digesters are a means of utilizing and managing livestock manure and other organic waste products in the generation of energy and other sources of revenue.”

The Virtual Renewable Energy Education Field Day

CSU Extension/Southeast Area collaborated with Farm Foundation, NFP and USDA offices of Rural Development, Energy and Policy, Farm Service Agency, and Natural Resource and Conservation Service to host an all-day webinar on the use of anaerobic digesters as a tool for energy production. Facilities at the Lamar Community College Equine Center were utilized for viewing the webinar, attended by 13 individuals including producers and LCC Agriculture students.

Anaerobic Digesters are a means of utilizing and managing livestock manure and other organic waste products in the generation of energy and other sources of revenue. The webinar specifically was designed to look at the incorporation of anaerobic digestion into operations located in the semi-arid environment of the Southwest United States. Speakers from the United States and Canada covered varying phases of anaerobic digestion including: Producer perspectives on sustainability and integrated digester systems, Digesting manure under dry climatic conditions, How a digester can help manage livestock manure/nutrient issues, Potential revenue streams from an integrated digester system, Financing options for anaerobic digester installation, and Next steps to begin integrating a digester into a livestock operation.

Webinar sessions were taped and are available for viewing at: www.farmfoundation.org/webcontent/Virtual-Renewable-Energy-Education-Field-Day-1744.aspx?z=85&a=1744 for one year from the date of the webinar, October 26, 2011.

Range Beef Cow Symposium XXII

The Twenty-second, bi-annual Range Beef Cow Symposium was held November 29 through December 1 in Scottsbluff, Nebraska. The symposium is hosted by Extension and Animal Science Departments of Colorado State University, University of Nebraska, South Dakota State University, and the University of Wyoming. This was the fifth symposium attended by Bruce Fickenscher, Range/Livestock agent/Southeast Area. Symposium topics covered all aspects of the beef cow industry from policies, public issues, current inventory and changing industry structure to land use decisions, ownership transfer, using of genomics in animal selection, consumer perceptions, and adding value to the beef product. Along with a great slate of speakers, participants were given time to visit the trade show and talk to livestock industry suppliers.

Approximately 400 people attended the two and a half day event ranging from strictly cow-calf producers to feedlot operators and both large and small size operations. This event is rotated between the four states. Range Beef Cow Symposium XXIII will be held in Rapid City, South Dakota in 2013.

Busy Planning Upcoming Farm/Ranch/Water Symposium

The Eighth Annual Arkansas Valley Farm/Ranch/Water Symposium and Trade Show will be held Thursday, February 2, 2012, in Rocky Ford. Extension staff, together with several collaborating agencies, are busy planning another great program this year. The Symposium is packed with exciting topics for producers. There are sessions on conducting agricultural energy audits, working with the media, and a marketing outlook for corn, hay, and cattle. Tracy Vanderpool from the Colorado Department of Agriculture will have a presentation about food safety for fruit and vegetable growers. We are excited to have Brian Bledsoe, from KKTV 11 News, to give us an outlook on what to expect in weather trends over the next year. There will also be several water updates, including super ditch, water 2012, and issues facing lower Ark Water Users. An update from the State Vets office will round out the day. The day is packed with information to help producers make sound decisions and plan for the future.

Colorado Sorghum and Sunflower Field Day

The 2011 Sorghum and Sunflower Field Day was held on October 3 at two different locations in southeast Colorado. The field day was jointly hosted by The National Sorghum Producers Association (Sorghum Checkoff Program), Colorado State University Extension, and Colorado Agricultural Experimental Station, Plainsman Research Center. This year's field day highlighted the performance of new commercial and experimental sorghum and sunflower hybrids developed for dryland production systems.

Seventy producers attended the field day in the Southeast Area. Dr. Jerry Johnson, Extension Specialist and Kevin Larson, Research Scientist, reviewed conditions and performance of the various grain and forage sorghum hybrids in the trials. Doug Heatwole, agronomist from Mycogen, discussed the agronomic characteristics of the commercial and experimental lines of sunflower in the trials. BayerCropScience's agronomist, Brett Koops, presented information on the recently approved herbicide, Huskie®, for weed management in grain sorghum. This herbicide is a good choice for weed control, since there is no herbicide tolerant sorghum hybrid in the market yet.

Listeria Attacks Southeast Colorado

Colorado's melon production is centered in the Arkansas Valley around Rocky Ford. Since 1895, the Arkansas Valley of Colorado has been producing the highest quality cantaloupes, thus the nickname "The Sweet Melon Capital of the World." The U.S. commercial cantaloupe production actually began in the Arkansas Valley. Many people travel to the Arkansas Valley each year to sample the delicious Rocky Ford melons, tour the melon fields, and take a few home.

Early September word spread fast that local cantaloupes had been linked to foodborne illness caused by Listeria. Colorado State University reacted quickly; SE Area Extension, Arkansas Valley Research Station, College of Applied Human Sciences, and College of Agricultural Sciences all went to work trying to better understand and prevent the spread of Listeria and protect consumers. Several meetings were organized with producers affected by the outbreak. CSU is leading research efforts to find ways to prevent further outbreaks, focusing on the entire food chain from farm to table.



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Family & Consumer Science

“We wanted to design an activity for ages five and over to be able to spend time with family this holiday season in a positive, economically affordable and practical way while having fun”

Food Safety Works

Twenty food service workers in Bent, Prowers and Kiowa Counties increased their knowledge of food safety through Food Safety Works classes taught by Kaye Kasza, CSU Extension. The class teaches the basics of food safety to decrease the incidence of food borne illness. A single outbreak of food borne illness can easily cost a food service operation \$75,000 in legal fees, medical claims, lost employee wages, cleaning and sanitizing, discarded food supplies, and lost income from negative publicity and/or being shut down. Food Safety Works training is one way food service establishments can proactively prevent such losses.

Kasza is collaborating with Prowers County Public Health and Environment to schedule classes for food service establishments in Baca, Bent, Kiowa and Prowers Counties on a regular basis. Classes were held in Prowers and Kiowa counties fall 2011 with participants from restaurants, senior centers, grocery stores, and assisted living centers in Bent, Kiowa and Prowers counties. Classes are scheduled in Springfield, Las Animas, Eads and Lamar in 2012.

Spend Some, Save Some, Share Some

Head Start parents in Prowers and Bent Counties learned to “Spend Some, Save Some, Share Some” at parents resource nights this fall. CSU Extension Agent Kaye Kasza manned a display and answered individual questions about basic financial management. The most popular handout was a slide calculator that did the math to illustrate the savings found by spending less on little things. In addition to the display, Kasza provided articles for the Head Start parent newsletters on Holiday Budgeting, Healthy Celebrations, and Tax Refunds.

Christmas Treat and Treasures

Bent and Prowers County Extension combined to host a Christmas Treats and Treasures workshop this year to help families learn how to make tasty, healthy treats along with building treasures to celebrate the season. Workshops were held in Las Animas and McClave, Lamar was snowed out. “We wanted to design an activity for ages five and over to be able to spend time with family this holiday season in a positive, economically affordable and practical way while having fun,” Kaye Kasza, CSU Extension Agent said. Participants learned how to make fruit fondue, understand nutritional content, make cider and build homemade fabric wreaths. They even took time out to search for a traditional yule log.

4-H Presentations in the Schools

October 2-8, 2011, was National 4-H Week with the theme “Join the Revolution of Responsibility.” National 4-H Week is often overlooked in Otero and Crowley Counties as the youth are busy with sports and other school activities/responsibilities. This year Brooke Matthew visited all seven school districts in Otero and Crowley Counties. The 30 minute presentation was geared for fourth graders; however at a few of the smaller schools it was several grades combined. Approximately 385 youth and 30 adults viewed a variety of projects (wildlife, quilting, ceramics, photography, and shooting sports), learn what 4-H is and how to join. They also heard from senior aged 4-H members about what 4-H has meant to them and why they are glad to be 4-H members. There has been positive feedback from the number of phone calls and emails asking about 4-H and we are hopeful that enrollment will increase in Otero and Crowley Counties.

Dare to Be You

Over 30 4-H members from Prowers, Bent and Otero counties participated in the November 12-20 Dare to Be You Camp in Pueblo, Colorado. The camp hosted by the South Central 4-H District (SCD) is designed for youth aged 11-13. Campers attended four workshops where they learned to improve their public speaking, GPS skills, leadership and community service. Workshops were designed by a youth leadership team with members from the San Luis Valley to Prowers County.

“The first year we attended the camp we had four members, this past year we took over 30. This is such a positive trend and speaks to the quality of the youth leadership and development. These youth leaders have designed interactive and engaging workshops which has made the camp grow each year,” Lacey Mann, CSU Extension Agent said.

Headstart Night

The Bent and Prowers County Extension offices participated in the Head Start Resource Nights in Lamar and Las Animas. This resource night serves as an opportunity for community families to meet and interact with local youth development agencies. Extension joined the Welcome Home Center, Prowers County Workforce, Lamar Public Library and many others to showcase their youth programs. This year, Theresa Butler, Prowers County 4-H Council, taught youth how to build straw rockets. Youth and parents then tested their design skills to see who could launch their rocket the longest and highest.

“This night allows 4-H and Extension to reach community members it previously has not met before, the crowd is diverse and eager to find positive youth programming for their children. We are excited and thankful Head Start has invited us back and we look forward to next year’s event,” Lacey Mann, CSU Extension agent said.

4-H



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A note from the Area Director—Jennifer Wells

Greetings to the southeast area. My name is Jennifer Wells and I started my position as Southeast Area Director on December 1. I will be serving as the director and also programming in the area of family and consumer sciences.

My education background includes a Master of Professional Counseling from the University of Great Falls and a Bachelor of Science in Home Economics Education from North Dakota State University. For the past 14 years I have been employed with Montana State University Extension in Hill County, which is north central Montana. My responsibilities were in the areas of family and consumer science and the 4-H youth program.

I look forward to getting to know the area. Please stop by my office in Rocky Ford or give me a call if extension could assist you, your agency or organization. Extension has a wealth of information and expertise. The agents in the southeast area can assist you in the areas of natural resources, nutrition, food safety, family issues, personal finances, horticulture, livestock, cropping, community development and youth. If they are unable to assist you they will know what resources are available to you or your family.

Wishing you a wonderful 2012!

Colorado State University, U.S. Department of Agriculture and Colorado counties cooperating. Extension programs are available to all without discrimination. The information given herein is supplied with the understanding that no discrimination is intended and no endorsement by Colorado State University is implied.

4-H Achievements Celebrated

County 4-H programs closed the end of the year by holding their annual 4-H achievement banquets in October and November. These banquets are held annually to recognize the excellence individual 4-H members and their clubs demonstrate throughout the year. The banquets also provide an opportunity to recognize leaders, sponsors, and supporters. Whether they have donated time, money, or labor, without their generosity we could not have the outstanding programs and achievements that allow us to strive for our motto "Making the Best Better." The following people were honored by their county 4-H programs as outstanding supporters, friends of 4-H, or meritorious service:

Baca - Greg & Tammy Hetrick, Gene & Lynda Noe
Bent - Greg Wight, Robert Darnell
Cheyenne - Dr. Milton Vondy
Crowley - Crowley County Fairboard
Kiowa - Shawn Roberson
Otero - Winter Livestock
Prowers - Pennington Family, Dwight Burns, Colorado Mills

The Southeast Area wants to thank these people for their time and commitment to 4-H. Members and volunteers have benefited from their generosity.