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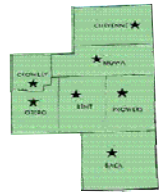
**Extension**

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university.**

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# Quarterly Report



## To: Board of County Commissioners

This quarterly report summarizes major educational programming in the third quarter of 2008 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.

## Rabies Clinics in Southeast Colorado

During the summer of 2008, Southeast Colorado experienced a spike in the number of rabies cases reported. The majority of these cases tested involved skunks but several coyotes were also collected and sent to the State Lab, returning positive for the rabies virus. CSU Extension offices in Baca, Bent, Prowers, Kiowa, and Cheyenne counties coordinated with Southeast Land and Environment, Emergency Management offices, County Health Nurses, and local veterinarians to establish vaccination clinics in each of the five counties.

Several of the municipalities hosted clinics earlier in the year, but coverage was limited to primarily urban residents. Using press releases and support from County Commissioners, information was distributed highlighting exposure possibilities and treatment protocols in the event of exposure.

Eleven clinics were held in communities with a total of 965 animals receiving vaccinations at a reduced cost compared to going to the individual veterinarians office. Many owners also elected to have animals vaccinated for other diseases as well including, rattlesnake bites, distemper, feline leukemia, etc. All rabies vaccinations were recorded and official documentation given to law enforcement personnel for their records.

4-H Youth in several of the counties assisted veterinarians in administering the vaccinations or coordinated traffic flow to the vaccination stations.



*4-H members assisting at the rabies vaccination clinic in Lamar.*

## Agriculture and Natural Resources

### CSU Beef Field Day

The CSU Beef Field Day, which was held September 16th in Kremmling, CO. offers an opportunity for cattle producers to hear and interact with industry leaders, local experts and fellow producers to discover and chart the future of the ranching industry.

Barry Dunn, executive director of the King Ranch Institute for Ranch Management key-noted the conference held at the Lewis Ranch outside Kremmling, CO, sharing his information from the famous King Ranch Institute about what characteristics of producers make them profitable. The institute's vision statement is "to educate leaders who will make a positive difference in ranching, and ensure that our hard earned heritage is not lost."

Dunn, a former range/livestock production extension specialist at South Dakota State University and part of the Dunn's family 120 year old ranch located on the Rosebud Indian Reservation in South Dakota spoke candidly about the challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> century and the steps needed to achieve success in a global market with a high input cost economy.

A demonstration on 15 Angus bulls of the PAP (Pulmonary Artery Pressure) test and its importance on cattle going to high altitude range country was also given by Dr. Tim Holt of CSU.

Breakout sessions were also held on the new Farm Bill, trichomoniasis in the state, upcoming COOL (Country Of Origin Labeling) regulations, marketing calves, corn/ethanol impacts on cattle production, feeding with dry distillers grain, improving cattle distribution on the range, improving pasture quality and protocols of artificial insemination.

The annual Beef Field Day is an event produced by Colorado Extension Agents, CSU Research Specialists with the cooperation of local ranchers. Southeast Extension Agents on the Beef Work Team include: Bruce Fickenschner, Kiowa and Cheyenne county offices, Deborah Lester, Baca county, and Natalie Edmundson of the Otero and Crowley county offices.

Next spring the field day is tentatively scheduled for the southeast area with an emphasis on the feedlot industry.

### Basics of Rangeland Monitoring

Rangeland monitoring can be an effective tool for making grazing decisions and to determine if those decisions are improving rangeland health. Monitoring becomes even more important when a producer leases land for livestock grazing from another entity, such as federal or state government or through a private lease. The people who own the land want to be assured that the land is being cared for properly, and if it is believed that harm is occurring due to grazing, they may require that the animals be removed. A rancher who has been monitoring can provide evidence that they are not causing harm, and hopefully, are actually improving the condition of the rangeland. Without the data obtained from monitoring, a rancher has less information on which to base a claim to the landlord.



*Olney-Boone transect training*



Although many ranchers know how to monitor their cows' body condition scores, they do not know how to monitor their rangelands.

The Olney Boone Conservation District hosted a hands-on workshop north of Olney Springs for local ranchers on September 17<sup>th</sup> to address the importance of monitoring. Ben Berlingler, NRCS Range Specialist, and Natalie Edmundson, CSU Range and Livestock Extension Agent, discussed reasons to monitor, how to identify plants, what to look for when monitoring, and how to establish a monitoring plan for a ranch. The ranchers then helped establish a permanent transect and learned firsthand how to “read” a transect. Ranchers attending the workshop not only learned the basic steps of monitoring, but each person was also given a bag full of tools to begin monitoring on his or her own ranch immediately.

### Wheat Harvest

Southeastern Colorado farmers are wrapping up another summer with the completion of wheat harvest and the preparation for Fall harvest. The summer of 2008 was very challenging for agriculture due to extreme drought conditions which plagued the area for the majority of the year. The drought conditions are a good reminder of why Colorado State University conducts on site crop research in many areas of the State and not just at the ARDEC facility near campus. Growing conditions can and do vary greatly not only from one area of the State to another, but also within individual counties as has been very evident. This variability is why Scott Brase along with campus specialist have placed six on farm wheat variety test and an additional four small variety test plots within the counties of Baca, Prowers, Kiowa, and Cheyenne.

Research can be tedious and require a great deal of time, special equipment, and travel; however the potential impact from the information obtained can be extremely beneficial for the area economy. A one or two bushel per acre advantage from a variety doesn't sound like much until it is put into perspective.

Wheat Acres in SE Colorado (Baca, Prowers,	Potential Increase in yield	Avg Price/ bu	Potential Increase in Income
334,000	1 bu/ac	\$7.50	\$2,505,000.00

All of the 2008 wheat trial data has been published both online and in hard copy and has been made available to area producers in the County Extension offices and at the Wheat Planting Decision meetings which were held in Baca and Kiowa Counties on August 13<sup>th</sup>.

Scott Brase is currently working with area producers to plant the 2009 wheat test plots. Plans are in place for the same number of trials as last year with many of the same varieties along with several new and experimental varieties that CSU is currently working on. With the moisture received in late summer, conditions are very favorable for the 2009 wheat crop at this time.



Wheat Harvest in Southeast Colorado

## Beef Producer Meeting

There are many issues currently facing cattle ranchers and feedlot operators in Southeastern Colorado. Some of these issues include, but are not limited to, beef quality assurance and consumer confidence, the new mandatory country of origin labeling (COOL) rule, marketing options and disease risk management. Colorado State University Extension hosted a Beef Producer Meeting in Rocky Ford on September 24 to address these issues. Representatives from CSU, Colorado Cattlemen's Association, Colorado Livestock Association, IMI Global, and the Colorado Department of Agriculture presented to the group of local ranchers and feedlot operators.



Travis Hoffman, Colorado BQA Coordinator, opened the evening by discussing the importance of beef quality control and marketing to the consumer. After providing an update from the latest Beef Quality Assurance Audit, he encouraged producers to be proactive in ensuring beef safety and integrity. Travis also encouraged producers to take another look at how they market their cull cows. Cull cows can provide much needed cash flow for a producer and thought should be given to the weight of the animal at sale and when that animal is marketed.

The hot topic for the evening was the new USDA rule for Country of Origin Labeling (COOL). Terry Fankhauser and Beka Gill from the Colorado Cattlemen's Association (CCA) provided information on the new mandatory COOL regulation and how it will affect beef producers. The rule, which requires beef and other commodities to label where the product was produced and processed, went into effect on September 30, 2008. It is the responsibility of the retailer and packer to provide proof of country of origin claims on the label of whole muscle cuts and ground beef sold to consumers. This means that retailers and packers will need documentation from producers. CCA is recommending producers sign an affidavit verifying the country of origin and send a copy with the buyer of the cattle in addition to brand papers. The producer should keep a copy of this affidavit for three years. Terry Fankhauser was able to answer the many questions producers had regarding their own operations.

Representatives from IMI Global discussed value added marketing and the use of animal identification in verifying marketing claims. Many producers are looking for ways to provide a superior product and some consumers, particularly in the global market, are demanding specific requirements of their beef such as natural, hormone-free, or humanely handled. IMI Global provides third-party verification and identification tools to make this possible.

Dr. Keith Roehr, the Assistant State Veterinarian with the Colorado Department of Agriculture, gave livestock health updates on Brucellosis, Tuberculosis and Trichomoniasis. He discussed what states are currently facing outbreaks of Brucellosis and Tuberculosis and what the State of Colorado is doing to protect our herds. Dr. Roehr encouraged producers to be proactive by developing disease risk management plans for their own livestock.

The evening concluded with a brisket dinner and producers were able to visit with the speakers and ask additional questions regarding the topics presented.

## Baca County

**Baca Fair & Rodeo, July 28-August 2, 2008**

The dollars are all in and Junior Livestock Sale premium checks will be on their way to our youth exhibitors by the end of September from the 2008 Baca Fair & Rodeo. (This may even be a record!)

Our incredible fair included 114 4-Hers exhibiting in 2008. The Blue Building housed 113 exhibited projects and the Open Class division as well. We had 91 animals sell in the Junior Livestock Premium Sale which grossed a record according to Chairman Bill Sparks.

**State Fair-** Baca County had 47 4-Hers exhibiting general projects, 12 youth exhibiting livestock projects, and 13 4-Hers participating in the shooting sports competition at the State Fair this year. These 4-Hers brought home 4 Grand Championships and 8 Reserve Grand Championships in their classes, and many more first through ninth place ribbons in all classes of competition.

## Bent County

Seventy Bent County 4-H members and 20 FFA members had projects evaluated at the Bent County Fair. While the fair is a competitive event, all members increase their skills and knowledge related to their project through the judging. All judges were hired based on their ability to teach the members, as well as their knowledge of the project or activity.

Activities at the fair also teach leadership and citizenship. Prior to the fair, 4-H and FFA members spent an evening sprucing up the fairgrounds to help show off Bent County at it's best. Twelve 4-H members learned leadership skills by helping as junior superintendents. Youth helped other youth with their project, even though they would compete against them later with the same project, then cheered for each other after placings were announced.

Sixty-five animals were sold through the Junior Market Livestock Sale, up from 49 in 2007. Even with the increased number of animals, the average premium fell only \$13, indicating strong support for the program.

**State Fair—** Bent County sent twenty general and consumer science projects to the Colorado State Fair. Exhibits must place first in their class at the county fair to be eligible to compete at state fair. Seventeen of those exhibits placed in the top ten in their class at state fair! Two members won Grand Champion (the best of several classes placed together) with their projects. Six Bent County youth exhibited livestock at the state fair, and placed very well.

Kaye Kasza served as superintendent of the Colorado 4-H Fashion Revue at state fair. Forty-six Colorado 4-H members modeled garments made in a 4-H project. They also learned about careers in the fashion industry.

In addition, Kaye Kasza judged the 4-H Child Development projects at the Colorado State Fair.

## 4-H





## 2008 Cheyenne County Fair

The 2008 Cheyenne County Fair held July 27–August 2 was a great success this year. Over 40 4-H and FFA members participated along with 97 Open Class entries. The live-stock sale did exceptionally well with 57 animals selling. The 4-H food and decorated cake auction also proved to be a big payday for its participants with 21 items selling. We want to personally thank all the buyers, sponsors, and volunteers for their tremendous donations of time and money. We also want to recognize our State Fair participants this year. Kristyn and Chelsea Dickey participated in the pig show, Allison Haffner participated in the artistic clothing (decorate your duds) senior combination and received 7th place, and Cassia Kent participated in food core projects (Unit 2 On the Road to Fun and Fitness) senior and received reserve class champion. Congratulations ladies!

## Crowley County

Crowley County Days is a week long of 4-H activities with the community and events the end of the week. The 4-H and FFA events started Saturday, July 19th with the Horse Show. On Tuesday the Cloverbud fair was held on the courthouse lawn and the dog and rabbit show held in the park under the cool shade trees. Wednesday the barn was filled with sheep, goats, and hogs. Thursday brought the steers and heifers to fill the barn, followed by the round robin. Friday was the general and consumer science project judging at the Methodist Church. This is an excellent location as it is open to the public following the parade on Saturday. Crowley and Otero Youth participating in the 2008 Crowley County Days 4-H and FFA activities had an excellent year..

## Kiowa County

For 2008, Kiowa County had 38 4-H members and 18 Adult Leaders. Four members competed in the District Six Creative Cooks, Cake Decorating, and Demonstration Contest – one Creative Cooks individual, one Creative Cooks team, and one Demonstration. The individual Creative Cook and the Demonstration contestants both received first blues and Champions, the team Creative Cooks received a second place blue and Reserve Champion place.

Ten members competed in the Kiowa County Fun Festival with eleven different performances from Vocal solos to Instrumental solos. Eight of the acts received first blue placings and eligibility to attend the Colorado State Fair Performing Arts contest.

Kiowa County 4-H members entered 61 general projects, judged at the 2008 Kiowa County 4-H Exhibit Day. A total of 58 projects were actually judged for completion. Thirty-seven of the projects were judged to be eligible for Colorado State Fair entries. Eleven members sold food and baked goods at the Annual Food Auction, and three percent of the total is with-held and deposited in the Kiowa County 4-H Scholarship account.

At the Colorado State Fair, twenty-two members entered 34 general projects, two participated in the Horse Show, one participated in the Creative Cooks Contest, one in the State 4-H Fashion Revue, and one participated with two acts in the Performing Arts Contest. Of these projects, two received Overall Grand Champions, two – Overall Reserve



Grand Champions, two – Unit Champions, four – Unit Reserve Champions, five – third place, two – fourth place, one – fifth place, one – sixth place, one – seventh place, two – eighth place, two – ninth place, and eleven received qualifying ribbons.

Nine members raised livestock projects in 2008, selling fifteen individual lots at the Kiowa County Junior Livestock Sale. The only species not sold by 4-H members was market steers.

The Kiowa County Achievement Banquet will be the evening of November 7, 2008, at the Kiowa County Community Building beginning at 6:00 p.m. The Prairie Queen 4-H club will be hosting.

## Otero County

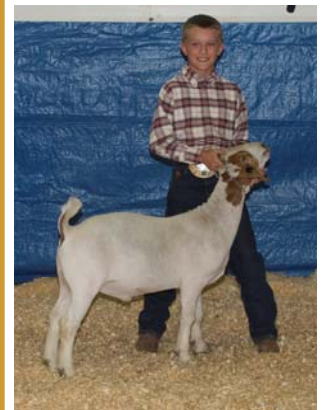
The 2008 Arkansas Valley Fair, held in Rocky Ford, kicked off on Saturday, August 9th, and wrapped up on Saturday, August 16th. The theme for the fair was “SMILE–You’re in Melon Country”. The 4-H clubs set up booths in the Exposition Building to show off their members, their club pride, and any general or consumer science project that did not go to the State Fair. The judging of the general, consumer science and Cloverbud projects was held on August 9th, with the first place project in each unit qualifying for the State Fair. Those projects qualifying for the State Fair were taken on Tuesday, August 12th for judging on the State level. Tuesday was the day! Livestock began showing up in the barn and the rabbit and horse shows were held. Wednesday brought the final animals to the fairgrounds and all the market weighins and the sheep and goat shows were held. Thursday was the poultry, dairy goat, beef and hog shows. What a rainy day Friday was. The County Council officers walked in the parade alongside the 4-H Foundation Ford pickup that the State is raffling off. This was a cold and rainy walk, but they all dried. The sale wrapped up the rainy day with 113 youth participating in the sale. On Saturday, the events wrapped up with the round robin contest, the annual watermelon eating, loading out and clean up. The Arkansas Valley Fair was a huge success once again.

## Prowers County

Prowers County 4-H wrapped up another successful year. There were a total of 145 livestock projects completed. The community supported the Jr. Livestock sale very well. We had around a 30% increase over the 2007 sale. The new Pavilion also worked very well, especially with all of the rain that was received during the Fair. We heard many compliments on the new facility.

Prowers County members also completed 113 general and family/consumer science projects. Many of the state qualified projects chose not to go to state because they wanted to keep their display locally for fair support. Of the 41 projects that did go to the State Fair, we had numerous placings, including 2 grand champions, and 10 reserve grand champion placings.

In addition to the members exhibiting projects at the State Fair, Scott Brase also served as judge for the crops at the Colorado State Fair.





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## A note from the Area Director—Jean E. Justice

As you can see from this report the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter was very busy with everyone involved in orchestrating seven successful county fairs.

All agents just returned from a week on campus for the annual Extension Forum. The forum brings all agents from across the state to campus for professional development, and acknowledgement of individual and group accomplishments. It is also an opportunity to network with agents from other parts of the state.

The Prowers/Bent 4-H position is moving along, even if it is rather slowly for those involved. This time around we had 13 applications to review and we will be interviewing three of them the first week of November. The first interviews will be on campus and the local interviews will be held in Lamar on November 6<sup>th</sup>. I feel confident in saying we will have a new agent beginning by January 1<sup>st</sup>.

I realize it has been a long two year process getting our positions filled again. Sometimes the wheels turn very slowly for those of us out here in the counties, but your patience and support is greatly appreciated by the agents in the Southeast Area.

We would also like to thank all of the County Commissioners for their support in helping us get the new office signage up. While CSU may have provided us with the new signs, it was our local partners (all of you) who assisted in getting them up. I hope you are as pleased with the results as I am. Once again, our county partners were there for us.

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.

## Family & Consumer Science



### In-service Training Provided for Child Development Teachers

At the beginning of the new school year in September, Agent Jean Justice provided an all day in-service training to 36 teachers from Otero Junior College Child Development Services. They represented all of the CDS Centers in Otero, Crowley and Bent Counties.

The training consisted of a combination of video and hands on activities. There were three separate topics presented. Math for Every Age, proved that if you can add 1 + 1 and get 2, you can do math with children. Participants learned what young children understand about math at each age and simple math activities to do with infants, toddlers and preschoolers. Next participants learned they didn't have to be a rocket scientist to help future scientists learn the basics. With Science for Young Thinkers, participants found out how to make science activities really fun for children and adults. Moving from place to place, activity to activity, is often filled with tears, screaming, and tantrums. Participants learned how to make transitions smoother, more productive and fun with less stress for adults and children alike. This section was titled Improving Transition Times.