

CSU Extension Advisory Board Meeting

June 8, 2021

Attendees: Donald Bunce, Steve Loy, Michele Ritchie, Joan Jahelka, Jonathan Vrabec, Rose Lyda, Mercedes Glenn, Lori



New:

Recorder: Mercedes

Program Area Up-Dates

Family and Consumer Science: Michael Lucero

- Food Preservation Series in Collaboration with El Paso County Nature Centers Working with Hort Program providing healthy recipes to target audience of the Backyard Garden Project. possibly doing food preservation and/or Diabetes education with same audience.
- State-wide High Elevation Baking Webinar Complete. New Chair of work group will be delivering program in the future.
- Elected PRU (Program Reporting Units) Co-Lead.... In transition until Jan 2022.
- Finished PLT Grant Proposal – Collaboration with Hort PRU and NFSH (Nutrition Food Safety and Health) PRU. Growing, Cooking and nutrition education for limited resource audiences with adaptivity with a general audience
- Developing MOU with Colorado Community Health Alliance for Dining with Diabetes Program will be doing ongoing diabetes education in person. Completed first Dining with Diabetes program in the state virtually in April/May in El Paso County.
- Ongoing month Cottage Foods Food Safety Certification continues to see large growth and enrollment. Other food preservation classes.

Local Foods/Agriculture: Michele Ritchie

Expanded Community Education Opportunities

It is proposed to expand community education opportunities related to economic development and resilience relevant to agriculture, food safety and Cottage Foods certification. Specific objectives include:

- Enroll 60 adults in certification programs to build workforce skills and home business start-ups.
- Offer at least 2 agricultural/small acreage programs that address emerging needs, sustainability, or other best practices.
- We are the only county offering this type of work force dev. for our farmers on a regular basis.
- We held a Farm Tax workshop in March
- April-May we had a Farm Finance Series, included 4 classes included a deep dive on Balance sheets, Cost Analysis, income statements, business trend analysis. Became an Annie's Inspired program so was advertised Nationally!

- As part of the PSR team, I have taught 3 class segments since Feb. And done one OFRR. I am also the team lead for one of our teams and have produced 3 new educational resources.
- From Jan- Dec 2020 we saw a 30% increase in CF Certifications
- We've already passed that increase Jan -June 2021
- I am putting together a CF pop-up marker for the 2021 EPC Fair
- Conceptualized, Leading, and creating a new program in cooperation with our on-campus nutrition and food safety team. It will include a series of classes targeted to outdoor recreation enthusiasts. The series will use the base class to also educate on food sovereignty, sustainability, and reduction of food waste. The scope has the potential to be huge!

4-H Livestock: Emily Tobler

- Horse Show June 5 & 6, Horse Judging Contest June 6, Fair Clean-up June 6, June 26, June 28
- Health Certs June 27
- Fair Entry closes the 11th and payments due the 18th.
- Dog show June 19 & 20
- Livestock Office Meeting June 16 plus announcer training
- Horse Show June 13
- Species Zoom Meetings for fair scheduled.
- Horse Written Test June 23
- County Fair Horse Show June 26 & 27

4-H Youth Development and Leadership: Charity Cagle

- Fashion Revue @ Fairgrounds
- Additional Robotics build day for community at Fair
- County Shooting Sports Competitions - 3 Dates
- New scoring platforms
- State Competition held at County this year.
- Focus on recruiting and training for new project leaders 21-22

Horticulture Associate: Irene Shonle

- We have started in person Help Desks on M and Wed 9-4. Business is slowly picking up as people learn we are back open.
- We will be starting a booth at the Colorado Farm and Art Market every other Wed throughout the summer.
- We will be wrapping up a very successful Lunch & Learn Garden webinar series on July 14th.
- Our Backyard Garden Project is going well – the 40 food insecure families have all received their grow bags, soil, seeds, and plants, and are getting biweekly communication with tips – and now recipes from Michael Lucero in our office.
- We are consulting with the Starsmore Discovery Center at Cheyenne Mountain Park on their hummingbird garden revival.
- Duckwood community garden is mostly full, and the gardeners have begun planting. We have a garden manager in place to help (one of the gardeners), and are offering some classes, as well as looking into creating a compost area.

- We are working on reviving the Horticulture Open Class at the County fair.
- We are helping FOX with their Garden Tour, by providing volunteers. The Tour is July 17 and 18.

Director/ SAM/AG/Community Development/4-H: Jonathan Vrabec

Emotional Intelligence-classes being taught to the county employees by Wes from CSU-allowing for the county to see what type of resources are available from Extension and CSU. Emotional Intelligence is the capacity to be aware of, control and express one's emotions, and to handle interpersonal relationships judiciously and empathetically.

Taught a Horse Clinic in Craig on Monday-instead of taking payment for the clinic-the 4-H program in Craig donated the fee to Protein for Helping

4-H Superintendent for the State 4-H Judging Contest next week.

No updated for Tim's replacement, waiting until the County Admin's position is filled. They are hiring her replacement in July to allow for some overlap before Amy's retirement. They have restructured the Community Services Department. CSUExt, Parks, Nature Centers and Environmental Services are still in Community Services. They took the Trial Services out and grouped with Veteran Services.

Groundbreaking for the new barns, Jonathan explored solar panels for the barn but the cost for upkeep is too much as of right now. Was given full support if Jonathan can secure the funding for it.

CSU is working on a telework plan-no news or updates on this yet.

Was asked to Chair on the search committee for the STEM Specialist position on campus. Is a time commitment over the summer.

Reports

- Fiscal Changes/Budgets:

No new updates. Mercedes' is working hard at pulling internal budgets and providing programming budgets.

- 2021 Fair:

No new updates-still on track.

- Purchases:

On schedule to replace three computers this year.

No other big purchases and no news about moving or getting new tenants in the building.

- CoVid:

County announced that COVID is over around 2 weeks ago. Departments have until September to get back to full staff. Back to pre-covid policies and restrictions as far as the county is concerned.

Unfinished Business

- Advisory Board Members:

2017/2018-only two or three people were on the advisory committee based off commissioner's reports. Jonathan is working on finding term-ending dates and member types: Steve is in Horticulture, Lori is in Ag, Joan is in 4-H/General.

New Business

- Staffing

Mercedes is replacing Brenda. Karla is now on maternity leave (earlier than expected)-process to hire a non-student temporary position to cover while she is out of the office. Interviews start 6/9/2021 for the temp position. Karla will not be returning-we will be looking to post the position July 1. Karla is interested (on a part time basis) to stay on to help train for a short period of time. Interviews late July/beginning August.

- Colorado Needs Assessment (CNA)

Needs assessment is out. We need help marketing the needs assessment with family, friends, co-workers, cohorts in the industries. If anyone wants to help hanging out posters-please let Jonathan know. Looking to get this out to anyone and everyone (not just our target audience).

Prefer county wide to help with EPC however it is beneficial Statewide.

Other:

VIP Reception at Fair-see you then!

Adjourned at 6:40pm

Next Meeting: September 7, 2021, at 5:30 p.m. (Elections in September)

Colorado State University, U.S. Department of Agriculture and El Paso County

Extension Programs are available to all without discrimination.