

CSU Extension Advisory Board Meeting
September 14, 2021



Colorado State University
EXTENSION

Attendees: Steve Loy, Jonathan Vrabec, Donald Bunce, Sharanne Rothenbucher, Rose Lyda

New: N/A

Recorder: Mercedes Glenn

Program Area Up-Dates

- **Family and Consumer Science: Michael Lucero**
 - Food preservation classes at the libraries, nutrition & wellness classes being taught online and in-person, Mediterranean diet workshop, dining with diabetes workshops.
 - Collaborating with Colorado Community Health Alliance to provide Dining with Diabetes class series to their clients.
 - Completed a food preservation series in collaboration with the nature centers.
 - Continuing programming with the nature centers in the near future.
 - Looking to partner with District 11 to provide programming to parents.
 - Also involved in a PLT grant on Food Insecurity with Nutrition Education, food preservation and preparation.
- **Local Foods/Agriculture: Michele Ritchie**
 - **Cottage Food Pop-Up Market for El Paso County Fair**

The inaugural Cottage Food Pop-up Market was a success. We would like to do the market again next year. Vendors reported that although traffic was low, people who did visit the market tended to buy something. We've already had an after-action meeting with the EPC Fairground Events Coordinator and plan to improve the market next year. One area of success that I can report is I had customers reach out to me after the fact asking for contact information so they could repurchase items.
 - **Cottage Food Certifications**

We are on track to have a record-breaking year on the number of certifications that are being earned by cottage food producers
 - **Preservation Classes**

We are offering 3 new classes in addition to our regular fundamental's classes.

 1. Preserve the Season: Chile Class
 2. Dehydration
 3. Holiday Jam and Bread Class (this is combining two popular classes we usually do separately for preparation in holiday entertaining).
 - **Peach Event Cancelled for 2021**

I had to cancel my very popular peach sale this year. The Colorado farmer that I work with had a catastrophic October freeze in 2020. It killed several fruit trees and greatly reduced their peach harvest. Due to the lack of peach sales, I have also decided to cancel the peach preservation class.
 - **Fall Fruit Event Likely Cancelled 2021**

It is unlikely that I will be able to hold the fall fruit sale for the same reason the peach sale was cancelled. I am talking with the farm to see if they will have fruit available, so far, they do not feel they will have enough to sell to me at a wholesale price. If fruit becomes available, I will hold a fall fruit preservation class.
 - **Green Chile Event 2021**

I am currently negotiating with Pueblo area Chile producers to see if I can hold a green

Chile sale. I am creating a preservation class that will focus on chiles. Regardless of selling chiles or not, I will have this new class in October.

- **Small Acreage Late Fall / Early Winter Seminar**
Jonathan and I are working on a late fall/early winter 2.5-3 hr. seminar that will benefit producers on small acreage or new producers to our area. Possible topics include Pasture Restoration, Preparing for winter, Small acreage management, Living windbreaks
- **4-H Livestock: Emily Tobler**
 - State Fair is over-we had a lot of youth exhibit and represented the county well.
 - Horse Trot race on 9/25/2021 for the community and 4-H Horse Project
 - Cattle Select Sale will be on 10/9/2021
 - State 4-H Dog Agility trail will be hosted by El Paso County 9/18-19/2021
 - Halloween contests and gatherings for 4-H members in the horse and dog project.
- **4-H Youth Development and Leadership: Charity Cagle**
 - Re-enrollment for the new 4-H year opens October 1
 - A few new 4-H Clubs starting up this year
 - Tabletop exhibits did well at State Fair
 - Finishing up with end-of-year reports for the 4-H Program
- **Horticulture Associate: Irene Shonle**
 - Help desk was open twice a week for in-person shifts in conjunction to the virtual help desk. So far, the Master Gardeners have answered: 199 questions in May/June and 131 questions in July/August. The Master Gardeners have been at the Farmer's Market Booth twice a month since June and have made 132 contacts as of August 30th.
 - Final Lunch & Learn for the spring series was July 14th (Tomato Troubles). 18 classes were held with 526 registrants. Classes were recorded live and emailed to participants. There will be a fall Lunch & Learn series discussing: Fall Bulbs, Season Extension, and Growing Garlic. There will also be a spring series for 2022.
 - Six classes were offered at the Speaker's Bureau Program from May-July 24th with 779 registrants.
 - 73 people are currently on the waitlist for the Master Gardener program with 10 apprentices accepted. Scholarships will be available through the Ed Carley Fund.
 - Green school has 12 registrants for the fall program. The program will benefit \$3000 from fall participants.
 - The Horticulture Open Class contest was revitalized for the 2021 EPC Fair with limited entries. Advertising and ease of entering will be modified for future contests.
 - The FOX Garden tour had a record-breaking year with over 1200 tickets sold. The Master Gardeners program earned \$2662 for volunteer labor. **Update from Donald Bunce**-This was a record-breaking year in the Old North End with over 10 homes participating.
- **Director/ SAM/AG/Community Development/4-H: Jonathan Vrabec**
 - Staffed the STEM Energy trailer at the EPC Fair with Jonathan, Mercedes, and Jessica. Minimal traffic due to the lack of operational items in the energy trailer.
 - Working in conjunction with Michele for Small Acreage Seminar this fall.
 - Contracted COVID and is currently working on a limited basis during recovery.

Reports

- Fiscal Changes/Budgets:
 - Print shop has discontinued services as of 9/3/2021 which will be a large hit to EPC Extension budget. Will put in for a \$10k operational increase for the print shop differential.
 - No new news regarding full time Horticultural position.
- 2021 Fair:
 - Went well-thinking that it should be a week later next year July 15-22?

- Purchases:
 - No major purchases expected for 2022. Might need to investigate upgrading equipment or outsourcing to a print shop/company. Donald suggested District 11 has a great print department and might be a resource to reach out to-Donald will investigate this and get back to Mercedes.
- CoVid:
 - Jonathan and Mercedes both contracted Covid and promptly shut the office down for a 10-day quarantine period. Agents worked from home during this period. Our office is supposed to be back to normal operations in the office.
 - Some staff have asked about implementing masks-we operate in a county owned building and the county has instructed us to follow County guidelines. EPC Staff are not supposed to ask anyone about their vaccine status or require masks.

Unfinished Business

- Advisory Board Members:
 - Ingrid with the county has bounced some emails to Jonathan. Jonathan is working on getting the information to proceed forward. Will get that handled soon. No new updates.

New Business

- Staffing-
 - Tim retired and Todd Marts has taken over the position. Excited about the partnership.
 - Karla's last day was August 26th. We've had a temp in the office filling in for the 4-H Admin and her last day will be 9/17/2021. Will be forwarding the job description to 4-H Staff and will then submit to CSU. Hoping to have the position filled by November.
- Elections
 - Donald made a motion to move elections to the November meeting. Steve Loy seconded the motion. Motion passed.
- Colorado Needs Assessment (CNA)
 - Staff was contacted and will be working on that this week.

Other: Protein for Helping Others-All buyback pigs, poultry and 1 lamb-sponsors funded the difference, processed and were taken to the Springs Rescue Mission to provide a protein source. We should have a press release for this!

Next Meeting: November 2, 2021 (Elections) @ 5:30 pm at the EPC Extension Office

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

Extension Programs are available to all without discrimination.