In June of 2019 the Mohave County Cooperative Extension office enjoyed a visit from Dr. Shane C. Burgess, Vice President for Agriculture, Life and Veterinary Sciences, and Cooperative Extension, Charles-Sander Dean of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, and Director of the Arizona Experiment Station at the University of Arizona.
In December 2019, Mohave County Cooperative Extension transitioned from the leadership of County Director Jeff Schalau, to Interim County Director Andrew Brischke. Mohave County Cooperative Extension would like to thank Mr. Schalau for his leadership over the past four years and look forward to his continued mentorship through this period of transition.

Cooperative Extension’s 2019 programs included 4-H Youth Development, Animal Science, Agriculture, Horticulture, Natural Resources, and Family Consumer Health Sciences. These programs provided significant informal educational opportunities to Mohave County residents. In addition, 163 citizens served as Cooperative Extension volunteers. These valuable volunteers increased the capacity for program delivery and enhanced the learning experience by helping Cooperative Extension faculty, staff, and specialists deliver relevant science-based educational programs and information to the citizens and communities of Mohave County and beyond. The contribution of these trained volunteers totaled over 13,684 hours of service with an estimated value of $347,984 (25.43/hour, 2019 Independent Sector).

Mohave County Cooperative Extension greatly appreciates the financial support, office space, and services generously provided by the Mohave County Board of Supervisors. Cooperative Extension continues to leverage county contributions through collaborations with local partners and the acquisition of grant funding. With Mohave County’s continued support, Cooperative Extension is confident we can continue to offer high-quality educational programs providing a brighter future for Mohave County residents.

Sincerely,

Andrew Brischke
Interim County Extension Director
Mohave County Cooperative Extension

Hydroponic Display Garden in the Mohave County Extension Office
**Program Highlights**

**Because of Mohave County Cooperative Extension, in 2019…**

- Range/Livestock programming supported and educated over 760 ranchers, agency professionals, and other interested parties through nine workshops and conferences in partnership with BLM, Arizona Cattle Growers’, Utah State University, and other partners in Mohave County. Topics included rangeland management, livestock production, and invasive species.

- The Arizona Cooperative Rangeland Monitoring Program (ACRMP) is a partnership between Cooperative Extension and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). ACRMP was supported by $435,095 in grant funding. Data was collected and one-on-one rancher education occurred on 211 sites on 81 different BLM Allotments for the Arizona Strip and Kingman Field Offices.

- The 13 Session Mohave County Urban Home Horticulture Course was taught in Kingman to 22 students. 68 Active Master Gardener volunteers contributed over 5,048 hours of service at a value of over $128,370 ($25.43/hour, 2019 Independent Sector) to their communities reaching over 5,260 consumers with science-based gardening information at 146 events.

- Master Gardener volunteers provided education and expertise at four local elementary school garden programs in Kingman and two school garden programs in Bullhead City.

- Family Consumer Health Sciences Area Associate Agent Christy Stuth was hired in mid 2019 and will spend 20% of her time in Mohave County, and 80% in Coconino where her office is located.

- AZ Health Zone-Cooperative Extension-Mohave County staff delivered evidence-based direct education on nutrition, gardening and physical activity to 5,396 Mohave County residents at 219 sites including food banks, wellness centers, schools, gardens, childcare centers and senior centers.

- 4-H youth were supported by 63 4-H Volunteer Leaders. In 2019, 8 new Volunteer Leaders were recruited and certified and 23 4-H teens took on teen leadership roles.

- 84 market livestock projects have been successfully completed by youth exhibitors, as evidenced by their entry and sale in the Junior Livestock Sale at the 2019 Mohave County Fair, completing their entrepreneurial program of operating a small business. Profit earned by members often supported future 4-H activities/camps and future college expenses.

- 175 4-H members displayed 975 exhibits at the Mohave County Fair in the 4-H/FFA Division, 73% were rated as Blue Ribbon or above for their project work, and skills demonstrated serving as a showcase for Mohave County 4-H Youth to exhibit what they had raised, made and learned.

- Jamie Campbell provided key leadership for our week-long camping program, MoYava 4-H Camp, with 82 4-H members from Mohave and Yavapai Counties who developed skills, knowledge, and attitudes supporting responsible care of public lands and their natural resources.

- Our Federally Recognized Tribal Extension Program (FRTEP) Agent, Elisabeth Alden was able to reach over 1,000 Hualapai tribal community members with direct education in the areas of 4-H, Ag & Natural Resources, and FCHS programs including summer camping and field trips, an incarcerated youth program at the Juvenile Detention Center and Early Childhood Programs at the Hualapai Daycare Center.

- Collaborations with vital Tribal Departments increase capacity and impact. Partnerships with the Hualapai Cultural Department include providing science-based education through a community garden and in turn the Health & Wellness Department includes this community garden as an integral component to help improve community health by improving the local food system and encouraging healthy food choices.
In 2019, our educational programs focused on:

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4-H Youth Development - Projects & Clubs

Jamie Campbell, Program Coordinator, 4-H Youth Development

Youth-Adult Partnerships
Youth-adult partnerships are the heart of the 4-H mission and a guiding principle for how 4-H leaders, staff, and volunteers work with youth. All members of a community have a role in creating a strong and healthy society. Sustained positive relationships between youth and adults support the healthy development and well-being of youth, while also benefiting adults, organizations, and communities. Youth-adult partnerships occur when:

- Youth are seen as assets to their communities as much as adults.
- Adults create ongoing opportunities for youth to share leadership with them in community settings.
- Youth contribute what they uniquely bring to the group and to the community.
- Youth and adults engage as equals in planning, implementing, and evaluating programs that shape the development of youth, as well as their communities.
- Research has shown that 4-H youth are more likely to receive better grades in school, be involved in leadership positions and community service. 4-H youth are also less likely to steal, use drugs, vandalize property, and skip school.

Mohave County 4-H Office
Community and project clubs were led by 63 adult volunteers and reached over 201 youth participating in projects ranging from sewing/textiles, leadership, livestock and small stock to horse and outdoor adventures.

Plants and Animals
Arizona students remain the lowest performing in the country in science: an area that many education and business leaders regard as critical to boosting the state's economic health. The Nation's Report Card showed that Arizona 8th graders improved only slightly from two years ago and were higher than those in only five other states. 4-H plant and animal projects teach science-based principles to youth participants.

Mohave County 4-H members enrolled in 304 large and small livestock projects and gained skills and knowledge through workshops, clinics, contests, exhibitions, and demonstrations. Eighty-four market livestock projects were completed and sold at the Mohave County 4-H/FFA Livestock Auction at the 2019 Mohave County Fair. Fifty-four of these market livestock projects were entered in Carcass Contest where the product was evaluated and graded at the University of Arizona Meats Lab. The results showed that 6 goats (100%), 4 lambs (85%), 18 swine (70%), and 5 steers (60%) earned Merit Awards based on the quality of the product. These 4-H youth gained and enhanced important life skills and will make better decisions as consumers of food and fiber.

Mohave County 4-H hosted the 2019 Colorado River Small Stock Show (CRSSS). 2019 marked the 30th year this event has been offered and was open to youth statewide. The CRSSS rotates locations between Mohave, La Paz, and Yavapai Counties. In 2019, 97 youth represented 28 clubs and showed 285 animals.
Leadership Development

Members experientially learn and practice leadership & life skills. Research has found that positive youth development is enhanced by the opportunities 4-H offers for teens and young adults to develop mastery, leadership, service and attachment to a group. 4-H youth develop valuable skills that last a lifetime.

Leaders influence and support others in a positive manner for a shared goal. Leaders aren’t just elected. They can be members of committees, small groups and teams. Learning about yourself and how you work with others is a key part of developing leadership skills. Examples of 4-H Leadership are:

- Understanding roles, attitudes, tasks and functions necessary for effective leadership.
- Strengthening local 4-H units in leadership responsibility and encourage other youth.
- Participating in program planning, development, and implementation and helping recruit new members and leaders.

Mohave County 4-H members and leaders worked together with other counties to develop the agenda for 2019 Journey: Opportunities for Leaders of Tomorrow (J.O.L.T.). J.O.L.T. is a week-long residential camp where teens work together to facilitate personal development, team building and self-confidence.

Environmental Education and Earth Sciences

Through participation in 4-H camp programs, youth are better able to: accomplish tasks on their own and in a team; make new friends; try new things; appreciate the outdoors and natural resources. According to the American Camping Association (ACA), camping programs provide the forum for children to discover and explore their interests, values, and talents.

MoYava 4-H Camp started as a partnership between Mohave and Yavapai County 4-H. In 2019, it was opened up to other 4-H youth from other counties. Seventy-Nine youth learned about the environment and natural resources by participating in the five-day residential MoYava 4-H Camp. Seventeen youth and adults worked together in a youth/adult partnership to design and implement this summer camp. Youth attended an average of 9 hours of programming each day with a total of 32 hours of programming.

4-H Educational Programs and Contests/Events

Several educational and recognition programs were offered to improve the self-esteem of youth in 2019. These programs included: 4-H Awards Program, County Recognition Night, Demonstration Day, and Mohave County Fair. Eleven members, leaders, and parents attended the Horse Challenge Day and 15 members received horse awards. The Mohave County Demonstration Day also attracted 27 members and parents.

Mohave County 4-H members also traveled to Washington D.C. and Maryland with the 4-H Interstate Exchange Club. They toured local agriculture, historic sites, and National Parks and Monuments while there.
Other program highlights from 2019 include the establishment of the Peach Springs Boys and Girls Club garden, the revision and implementation of the local wellness policy for Mohave Accelerated Learning Center schools, and the continuation of the physical activity clubs that were started in 2018 within the Kingman community. New program areas for 2019 included work centered around early child care facilities and healthy food retail policies. Program staff worked extensively with the Fort Mojave Child Care Center to improve nutrition standards through menu cycles, meal preparation, and planning. Additionally, staff assisted the Havasu Community Health Foundation Food Bank with the creation of a healthy food donation policy.

AZ Health Zone

The AZ Health Zone-Cooperative Extension-Mohave County is a partner in the Arizona Health Zone (AZHZ) that works to provide nutrition and obesity prevention education and activities to persons eligible to receive Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits. The goal of the program is to improve the likelihood that under-served children and adults will make healthy lifestyle choices within a limited budget.

In 2019, the AZ Health Zone-Cooperative Extension-Mohave County program consisted of one Program Coordinator, Senior and one Instructional Specialist. The program utilized engaging evidence-based curriculum enhanced with interactive components such as fun physical activities, food preparation classes, and gardening technical assistance to promote a healthy lifestyle to SNAP-eligible audiences.

Over the past year, the team has worked to increase healthy food retail; encourage participation in community, home, and school gardens; improve school health; support local physical activity resources, and provide family-friendly physical activity opportunities throughout the communities. Programming was delivered to various sites throughout Mohave County including schools, wellness centers, child care centers, gardens, food banks, shelters, senior living centers, and Tribal Nations. 219 site visits were conducted reaching over 5,396 individuals in Mohave County.
Range and Livestock Programs

Rangelands are extremely important to society for the goods and services they produce and for the ecological services they provide. With over 8.6 million acres, almost 80% of the land in Mohave County is owned by Tribal Trust Land, Arizona State Land, or Federal Agencies; most of which is rangeland. Mohave County is a large producer of beef cows in the state of Arizona and there is a need to balance livestock grazing with natural resources, particularly on public lands administered by government agencies. Mohave County Cooperative Extension (MCCE) educates land managers and livestock producers on working landscapes in order to optimize rangeland resource sustainability while maximizing livestock production profits.

2019 Range and Livestock Program Highlights

Events are hosted by MCCE throughout the year that teach a variety of subjects relating to rangeland management, monitoring, livestock production, and other identified needs requested by clientele. Range and livestock programming supported and educated over 760 ranchers, agency professionals, and other interested parties through workshops, conferences, and one-on-one education. MCCE collaborated with Utah State University Extension (USUE) to host the 41st Annual AZ/UT Range Livestock Workshop & Tour, reaching over 400 participants during the three-day workshop and tour. Additionally, the collaboration produced two other workshops, the Cowman’s Reproduction Workshop with 69 participants, and the AZ/UT Invasive Weeds Workshop with 81 participants.

Other workshops hosted by MCCE in lower Mohave County included a Beginning Rancher and Farmer Workshop, a state-wide Artificial Insemination (AI) Clinic at The UA Research Ranch, V Bar V. Topics covered bovine anatomy, estrous, herd health and nutrition, as well as proper AI technique and hands-on practice.

Conservation Collaborations

In addition to workshops, MCCE is an active member or advisor of many conservation groups throughout the County. Some of the major partnerships include advising the Big Sandy Natural Resource Conservation District (NRCD) and the Mohave Livestock Association/Farm Bureau (MLA/FB). A collaboration between producers and MCCE has been developed to inform the national authors of the US Drought Monitor.

Youth Programming

The Natural Resource Conservation Workshop for Arizona Youth (NRWAY) is a statewide annual camp. Youth in grades 8-12 attend a weeklong camp at the James 4-H Camp located on Mingus Mountain to learn about different natural resource topics. In 2019, 28 youth campers participated in NRWAY. MCCE staff also participated in the annual Lake Havasu City Water Festival teaching over 425 total youth about water and water conservation.
Arizona Cooperative Range Monitoring Program

A continuous challenge to managing rangelands is to know what is occurring on landscapes, ranches, and pastures. Therefore, there is a need to monitor rangelands. Monitoring is the process of observing, measuring, and documenting interactions, conditions, and changes on rangelands so that sound management decisions can be made to sustain our natural resources.

The ACRMP began as a collaboration between the University of Arizona Cooperative Extension and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) on the Arizona Strip and Cochise County in 2000, with a state-wide expansion in 2012. Extension personnel are located in BLM field or district offices and work with both the agency and ranchers to coordinate rangeland monitoring and provide one-on-one educational opportunities in their respective areas.

Throughout 2019, 111 key areas (sites) on 37 Allotments on BLM AZ Strip Field Office (FO) lands were sampled. 82 key areas on 26 Allotments on BLM Kingman FO lands were sampled. An additional 18 key areas on four Lake Havasu City FO were sampled during “Monitoring Week.” ACRMP came together for Monitoring Week, where the team assembled in Quartzsite, AZ, and sampled as many key areas as we could during the week for BLM Lake Havasu City. Data was compiled and stored in BLM monitoring files at each respective FO and technical summary reports were sent to respective managers or producers of each Allotment.

In addition to monitoring and providing one-on-one education, team members assisted at MCCE workshops and presented a poster at the National Society for Rangeland Management Annual Meeting. The 5-year Agreement with the BLM expired in August and a new Agreement was signed with the Arizona Strip BLM in October.

An important aspect of the ACRMP is to provide support and training for the VGS program. VGS is a software program developed by Dr. Despain to collect monitoring data electronically. Since the development of the program in 2008, adoption of the VGS program has spread throughout the Western US. VGS training courses are often held out-of-state and the ACRMP team often provides support for those courses.
Mohave County Master Gardener Program

Master Gardener programs encourage healthier communities, healthier environments, healthier plants, and an improved quality of life through science-based, environmentally sound horticulture practices. The Mohave County Master Gardener Program was established in 1990. Today, it remains a vibrant group, providing valuable horticulture information to citizens throughout Mohave County. The Mohave County Master Gardener Program is divided into three areas, Bullhead City, Kingman, and Lake Havasu City. Each area Master Gardener group provides home gardening education and expertise to the public through workshops, event booths, Q&A forums, hotlines, and emails.

Master Gardeners are trained through a 13-week Urban Home Horticulture Course (UHHC), with over 45 hours of instruction provided by Specialists from the University of Arizona, County Extension personnel, local experts, and veteran Master Gardeners. Training rotates between each of the three cities from year to year. In 2019, the course was offered in Kingman. Upon completing the course, students are eligible become Associate Master Gardeners. After volunteering 50 hours, participants become Certified Master Gardeners. Each subsequent year, Master Gardeners must provide a minimum of 35 hours of volunteer service and 6 hours of continuing education to maintain their certification.

2019 Master Gardener Program Highlights

In 2019, 20 students successfully completed the UHHC training in Kingman. Ten (10) students from the 2018 UHHC held the previous year in Bullhead City successfully completed their volunteer hours, and were promoted from Associate Master Gardener to Certified Master Gardener at the annual recognition luncheon in May. Throughout 2019, 68 active Certified and Associate Master Gardeners contributed over 5,048 hours of volunteer service and attained 678 hours of continuing education. 146 Master Gardener events were held throughout Mohave County reaching over 5,260 citizens. Volunteers consulted on 688 gardening related questions from Mohave County residents through a combination of calls to the Master Gardener hotline, and Home and Garden Days; which are Q&A forums open to the public each month at the Mohave County Public Libraries in Bullhead City, and Lake Havasu City.

The Mohave County Fair in September is a big annual event for the Master Gardeners. They are a popular feature with their information booth which also featured a hydroponic display this year. They also provide support for the set-up and judging of the vegetable exhibit. Other community events where you can find the Master Gardeners are the annual Lake Havasu City Winterfest, held in February each year, as well as local Home & Garden Shows held in Bullhead City, Lake Havasu City, and Kingman each spring.

Mohave County Master Gardeners have become an integral part of community and school gardens, and municipal programs in each of our major cities. Kingman area Master Gardener volunteers continued to provide their education and expertise to existing programs at several Kingman area public schools, including Cerbat Elementary, Manzanita Elementary, and Mt. Tipton Elementary, and as a result were invited to start a brand new gardening program this year at Hualapai Elementary.

Kingman Master Gardeners also offered monthly horticulture workshops targeted towards adult residents including annual favorites like tree pruning and seed starting, along with some new topics such as landscape plants for the Kingman area, and cacti & succulents. In addition to establishing a free seed library at the Kingman Extension office, Master Gardeners also partnered with the DigIt Kingman Community Garden to teach proper methods for saving local seeds in order to create a native and heirloom seed exchange.
Bullhead City Area Master Gardeners began two new school gardening programs in 2019: One at Bullhead City Middle School, and at the Academy of Building Industries (AOBI) Charter High School whose students had converted an old school bus into a greenhouse. Their partnership with municipal agencies was again highlighted in their annual participation with Mohave Electric Cooperative’s “Operation Cool Shade”. Master Gardeners helped Mohave Electric Cooperative (MEC) identify five desert adapted trees to be sourced and provided at wholesale cost to MEC customers. Master Gardeners were on hand to assist with distribution of the trees, and answer any questions about planting and care. They also delivered a free presentation at the Mohave County Library entitled “How to Plant Your Cool Shade Tree” as part of their monthly lecture series.

Lake Havasu City Area Master Gardeners continued to lend their expertise to local non-profit agency, New Horizons, to further develop the Les Galst Community Garden. They also maintained their partnerships with Lake Havasu City municipal agencies – co-sponsoring a free tree pruning seminar led by the Parks & Recreation Department, as well as working with Lake Havasu City’s Water Conservation Specialist to inform citizens of proper plant selection and irrigation methods that will reduce water consumption. They delivered several special gardening themed presentations at the request of the local branch of the Mohave County Library, and also continued to write a monthly featured article on desert gardening topics for the local newspaper, The Today’s News Herald. All three Master Gardener groups help to produce a quarterly newsletter entitled Wind & Weeds, which has won both state and regional awards from National Association of County Agricultural Agents (NACAA). These awards highlight the passion, expertise, and creativity of the Mohave County Master Gardeners, which make them an invaluable resource to our community.
Hualapai Tribal Extension Programs

Elisabeth Alden, Assistant Agent, Hualapai Federally Recognized Tribal Extension Program (FRTEP)

Overview

Federally Recognized Tribal Extension Programs (FRTEP) are obtained through a competitive process whereby every four years, each program must write a grant to fund their own program. If successful, National Institute of Food & Agriculture (NIFA) funding provides the Tribal Extension Agent’s salary and a small portion of operating costs. The host Tribe provides an office location. Collaborations and partnerships with Tribal Departments are critical to program success and must be developed and maintained. A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) must be in place for FRTEP to work on reservation land. The Hualapai MOU was updated in 2019.

Gardening / Food Systems

Gardening programs for volunteer-run community gardens continue. One garden workshop was held. Youth program participation was present, but not regular in 2019. A needs assessment was accomplished, which coincided with an unusual funding opportunity. A new 10' x 16' shed has been purchased (along with a new two wheel tractor/tiller/harrow/plow), and will be dedicated to serving only garden participants. The new space will allow for our own area for meetings, job duties postings, storage for tools, and a location to store harvests. Anticipate volunteer numbers to increase with dramatic garden area improvements.

AG/Natural Resources

Programs for rangeland health and improving cattle ranching are ongoing. Improving accessibility to local beef products and designing marketing labels were identified topics of interest and programming provided. The first annual Equine Event was held thanks to Dr. Betsy Greene, U A Equine Specialist, and Dr. Madelyn Melchior from Cerbat Vet Clinic in Kingman.

4-H Programs

The 4-H Agriculture Facility is a recent addition on the Hualapai reservation. There is now a building where meetings and programs are held. The outside area is approximately 3 acres in size, with a rodeo arena and an area with stalls and pens to house youth livestock projects. The building contains a large kitchen area. We anticipate more cooking and nutrition awareness classes to be held here. FRTEP participates with Department of Natural Resources Summer Camp, and FRTEP led 6 environmental educational field trips to Diamond Creek and the Colorado River. Collecting, sorting and identification of macro-invertebrates was the task. Multi-Department engagement contributed to the success of the trips (Cultural, Dept of Natural Resources, BIA, Indian Health Services, Youth Council, Boys & Girls Club, Hualapai Transport) provided volunteers, transportation, lunch and snacks for the youth.
2019 Visiting University of Arizona Faculty

Margine Bawden, Community Outreach Manager, Arizona Health Zone—the University of Arizona Cooperative Extension, Northern Region
Dr Shane Burgess, VP for Agriculture, Life & Veterinary Sciences, and Cooperative Extension
Trent Teegerstrom, Associate Director for Tribal Extension Programs
Dr. Betsy Greene, Extension Specialist, Equine/Horse
Susan Sekaquaptewa, Assistant Agent, FRTEP
Don Alamban, La Paz County Director, Assistant in Extension - FRTEP, Master Gardener Program
Juan Arias, Assistant Agent, FRTEP

Hattie Braun, Coconino County Director and Assistant in Extension, Horticulture, University of Arizona Coconino County Cooperative Extension
Shaku Nair, Associate in Extension, Community IPM, University of Arizona Maricopa Agricultural Center
Joshua Sherman, Area Assistant Agent, Community Horticulture, University of Arizona Cochise County Cooperative Extension
Dr. Michael Matheron, Specialist, Plant Sciences, University of Arizona Yuma Agricultural Center
Dr. Bill McCloskey, Weed Science Specialist

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