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Issued in furtherance of Cooperative Extension work, acts of May 8 and June 30, 1914, in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Jeffrey C. Silvertooth, Associate Dean & Director, Economic Development & Extension, College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, The University of Arizona.

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Cooperative Extension, the outreach arm of the University of Arizona, brings the university to the people.

The faculty and staff in the Pinal County Extension office are part of a non-formal education network bringing research-based information into communities to help people improve their lives.

Cooperative Extension is committed to delivering high-quality, relevant educational programs and information to Pinal County citizens and communities.

As we head into the holiday season, all of us here at the Pinal County Cooperative Extension office wish each of you the very best during the holidays.

The articles shared here are just a few of the many programs that are helping people throughout the county address concerns and solve problems. We hope that you will find a tidbit here or a something there that will be of interest and, hopefully, of help to you.

2017 has been a busy year for us and we are excited about the many accomplishments that you have helped us achieve. As we finish out this program year and start laying plans to start up in 2018, we sincerely want to thank everyone for all that they do to help make Pinal County a wonderful place to live.

Rick Gibson

- Rick Gibson



THE UNIVERSITY
OF ARIZONA

30 Years of Service

A Message from... *Timberly Gressley*



Life is forever changing...So when the time comes to make a big life change, it often proves to be a tough decision filled with mixed emotions because of the people you have fallen in love with over the years. But, I have made the decision to **RETIRE from the University of Arizona, Cooperative Extension after 30 years of serving as the Pinal County 4-H Youth Development Agent.**

I still have an enormous desire to share my passion for Cooperative Extension...and I'm not ready (or old enough) to really retire for good! So the time has come for me to pursue my next chapter in life. I need new challenges, a different environment and a new journey. I believe I found it! I have been offered a position with North Carolina State University as a County Extension Director, in Forsyth County located in Winston-Salem, NC (where my son

Chad and his family live!). I accepted the position and will begin my new career with NC State in December, 2017. The position is 90% Administrative and 10% 4-H Youth Development. The time has come for me to sign off here in Arizona, refocus, and get ready to wake up every morning with a smile on my face and excitement for the day...in North Carolina!

I wish all of you the best with your 4-H programs. I am working with Rick Gibson to make sure I am leaving everything in a great place for the next 4-H Agent or staff person. I hope to run into you all when I come back to Casa Grande for a visit, because we are keeping our business and home here in CG.

I look forward to watching the University of Arizona, Cooperative Extension, Pinal continue to do great things with their programs in the future. Take care!



Pinal County Master Gardeners Program



2018 Garden & Landscape Short Course

Learn How to Garden in the Desert

The Garden & Landscape Short Course is a study of gardening and landscaping in Pinal County. Materials will include the course curriculum and handouts from each class.

The next short course will run from January - May, sessions in Casa Grande & Apache Junction, there is a registration fee. For more information, please contact our office at 520.836.5221, x202 or tellswor@cals.arizona.edu.

Registration form and payment must be submitted to the Pinal County, Cooperative Extension Office at 820 East Cottonwood Lane, #C, Casa Grande, AZ 85122. Checks must be made payable to The University of Arizona. We are not set-up to accept payment via credit or debit cards. **Pre-Registration is required!**

Instruction will be given by Rick Gibson, County Extension Agent and guest speakers who are recognized experts in their fields.

Topics include (class topics are subject to change without notice):

Basic Botany

Soils

Native Plants

Vegetables and Flowers

Irrigation

Citrus

Turf

Arboriculture/Pruning

Plant Pathology

Plant Diagnosis

Entomology

Integrated Pest Management

Registration for the Garden & Landscape Short Course

Name:		Phone:
Address:		
City:	State:	Zip:
Email Address:		
<input type="checkbox"/> Casa Grande (820 East Cottonwood Lane, #C, Casa Grande, AZ 85122)		
<input type="checkbox"/> Apache Junction (805 S. Idaho Road, Apache Junction, AZ 85119)		

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The Strengthening Families Program

Eloy & Casa Grande Arizona

Locations to be announced!

Classes will begin January 2018 (date TBD)
at 5:30pm & continues through mid-May 2018

Don't miss out, limited to 12 families...
dinner, awards, entertainment,
graduation, and much more!



Family, Fun and Free!

- Strengthening Families Program consist of three skills courses: Parenting, Children's Life Skills, and Family Skills
- Skills Building Program for children ages 3-5 and their parents (14 sessions)
- Parents and children have fun while learning valuable bonding techniques
- Family style dinner at each class
- Family Graduation Celebration
- All parents or primary caregivers must register and attend classes
- Child care available for children whose families are participants of the program

For more information

Esther Turner
University of Arizona,
Cooperative Extension, Pinal County

820 East Cottonwood Lane, #C,
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 **FIRST THINGS FIRST**

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4-H Youth Development

Pinal County 4-H Website

4-H gives youth that extra edge for life success by offering numerous opportunities to develop leadership, responsibility, citizenship and other life skills. 4-H helps develop competent, caring and actively engaged citizens who strengthen Arizona communities. Through our research-based curriculum and university ties, 4-H opens a world of possibilities to youth and their parents who want to explore their interests — making the best better!

Go to <http://extension.arizona.edu/4h/pinal> to learn more!



How do I get started?

Decide what hobbies, activities your child is interested in and wants to learn more about.

Narrow your decision to realistic activities for their age, household setting (it may not be feasible to raise a dog if you live in an apartment) and interest of your child.

Now that you have some realistic activities (projects as they are called in 4-H), check out our website for a description of those projects. extension.arizona.edu/4h/pinal

I pledge...

my **head** to clearer thinking,
my **heart** to greater loyalty,
my **hands** to larger service, and
my **health** to better living for
my **club**, my **community**,
my **country**, and my **world**.

Pinal County Fair Dates: March 21-25, 2018

Fair book and ShoWorks entry forms will be posted on the Pinal County 4-H webpage –

<http://extension.arizona.edu/4h/pinal/>

All Pinal County 4-H fair entries must be pre-entered into our ShoWorks online program. We have been using this program for approximately 12 years. If you are entering building exhibits, shooting sports, small stock, goats, dogs or 4-H contests, you will need to enter online.

Our fair registration will open in January 2018, for your convenience. An announcement will come out of our 4-H office when the online program is ready to open.



It's Family Game Time!

Join us as we kick off the
Graduation of the participants from the

Pinal County Strengthening Families Program Tuesday, November 21, 2017

Family Style Dinner will begin at 5:30pm,
followed by graduation ceremony.

For more information on the Strengthening Families Program,
please contact Esther Turner at eturner@cals.arizona.edu



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**Sally Peoples
David Lieder**



ASPIRE

The University of Arizona, Cooperative Extension and the Governor's Office for Youth, Faith and Family have partnered together to provide a training to develop youth advocacy skills to include youth, ages 14-20, receiving SSI (Supplemental Security Income) benefits. The series consists of short trainings that can help you be the best you can be, learn how to communicate effectively, advocate for yourself, and improve decision making skills.

If you have questions and for more information on any of the trainings below, please contact our office:

- Sally (520) 836-5221, x224 / speoples@cals.arizona.edu
- David (520) 307-2838 / davidlieder@email.arizona.edu
 - ⇒ October (Tucson, Kingman)
 - ⇒ November (Maryvale, Paradise Valley)
 - ⇒ December (Phoenix, Chandler)
 - ⇒ January (Payson)

TIPS FOR TOY SAFETY

PLAY SAFE

Check for age warnings. Big kid toys are not for little ones. If it says "Not for children under age 3," keep it away from them.



KEEP SAFE

Check toys often for breaks and damaged parts. Sharp edges can cut and cause other injuries. If a toy is damaged, fix it or throw it away.

STORAGE SAFE

Store toys on shelves, in bins or in a toy box, to keep people from tripping or falling. Store outdoor toys in a safe, dry place to keep them from rusting.

SUPERVISION SAFE

Supervise children when they play, nothing protects your child better than your presence. One of the surest ways to keep children safe from toys is to provide adult supervision.

WHY CONTACT A CHILD CARE HEALTH CONSULTANT PROGRAM (CCHC)?

Within communities many infants and children attend child care programs, preschools and family child care homes. Each day child care staff must address health and safety issues such as infectious disease, nutrition food allergies, and special medical conditions in children.

Most child care providers do not have ready access to health resources to answer their questions or to assist them with health and safety planning. [The CCHC program fills this gap for Centers and Homes enrolled in Quality First.](#)

WHAT IS CCHC?

The CCHC is a registered nurse or other licensed health professional specially trained to meet the needs of child care programs. CCHCs provide services specific to their trained field.

WHO CAN USE CCHC SERVICES?

- Families can call to ask for assistance for their child in care
- Child care programs can call for assistance
- Health care providers can make referral to the Child Care Health Consultant program
- Agencies which provide monitoring or resources to child care programs can make a referral for services

AVOID

Avoid toys with small parts or magnets. No toys with dangling strands. Do not purchase toys that have sharp points or edges.



Sally Peoples
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Electric Light Parade



Pinal County is home to many Holiday Parades and activities. We join families in our community to celebrate the festivities and share holiday cheer.

For the past 3 years the University of Arizona, Cooperative Extension, Pinal County has participated in the Casa Grande & Eloy Light Parades.

An event where families, neighborhood groups and businesses from across the county come together to spread the joy of the holiday season and as well as helped us promote our programs.



2017 Pinal County Electric Light Parades

Experience the holiday joys in our community at one of the many events offered. Who knows...You may see us at a few!

Florence	December 1 st
Casa Grande	December 2 nd
Apache Junction	December 2 nd

Queen Creek	December 2 nd
Coolidge	December 8 th
Eloy	December 9 th

PLANT DIAGNOSIS CLINIC

HAVE A SICK PLANT OR JUST QUESTIONS ABOUT CARING FOR YOUR PLANTS?

Visit our Plant Diagnosis Clinic
held every **third** Thursday
of the month from 9am to Noon at the
University of Arizona
Cooperative Extension, Pinal
820 East Cottonwood Lane, #C
Casa Grande, AZ 85122

DON'T HAVE TIME TO STOP BY? CALL OR EMAIL US!

Call the Maricopa Agricultural Center
Master Gardeners at (520) 374-6263,
Monday - Friday, 9am-Noon
otherwise, please leave a message!

-or-

Email the Master Gardeners at
macmastergardener@gmail.com.
Send a picture with any information
you can provide about the plant
and your contact information.



COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE & LIFE SCIENCES
**Cooperative
Extension**

Field Crops Program

Blase Evancho, Assistant in Extension

Needs Assessment Survey

Pima and Pinal county growers have been participating in a short needs assessment survey to see what their highest areas of agricultural concern are for continued production in central Arizona.

While we wait for the last few surveys to be returned, early submissions point towards herbicide resistant weeds as the main focus for short term concerns while irrigation water availability and the low market price for field crops is clearly the most worrisome for long term sustainability.

Extension Events

There were field crop events this summer that were attended by Pima county Growers, PCA's and industry participants.

The first of these events was a tent talk in Marana at Tangerine Farms. This event focused on late season cotton IPM, cotton weed management, growing season weather, boll maturity dates and Texas root rot control in cotton.

The second event was held at Maricopa Agricultural Center and was attended by growers, PCA's and industry representatives from all over the state. This event was focused on sugarcane aphid control in sorghum and was put on collaboratively between both central Arizona ag extension representatives.

The third event was held at Fast Track Farms in Coolidge, AZ and in addition to the attendees from Pinal county were also some PCA's from pima county as well as industry representatives that cover Pima County.

Programing for New PCA's

This program was created to build a relationship with PCA's and PCA's in training that are just beginning their career. The annual curriculum will focus on insect and weed IPM, cool season crops, cotton disease and defoliation.

This program allows the young PCA's to interact directly with extension personal in an atmosphere that is absence of the more powerful players and personalities that the ag world holds and creates a fun interactive day in the field that will create returns for both the university and the PCA's for years to come.

Satellite Telemetry Ground Truthing

This winter we will be installing an eddy covariance station and soil moisture monitoring sensor network in collaboration with Utah State University and Dr. Markus Tuller.

This work will be completed to evaluate the accuracy of remote sensing models of soil moisture and evapotranspiration.

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Email: bee1@email.arizona.edu

Cotton Tillage

With the increase of herbicide resistant weeds we will be looking into some new tillage technology that will allow for tillage in cotton a young as 2-3 leaf.

This technology has been used successfully in lettuce seedlings to mitigate weed populations and will hopefully provide cotton growers with another tool that will tackle herbicide resistant weeds before they become a problem as well as give conventional cotton growers a tactic to combat seedling weeds before they become a problem.



**UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA
MARICOPA AGRICULTURAL CENTER**

MAC FAMILY FARM DAY

**For questions regarding MAC Family
Farm Day, please call 520-374-6204**

WHEN

**November 18, 2017
10:00-2:00 PM**

WHERE

**37860 W. Smith-Enke Rd.
Maricopa, AZ 85138**

FEATURING: Insect Entomology Displays-Face Painting -
Wildcat Water Lab Educational Station-The MAC Farm Ag-
Village-Corn Maze Walk-The Maricopa Radio Control Club-
New Technology in Agriculture-Cotton Gin Demonstration/
Cotton Picker Display-Cricket Spitting-AND MUCH MORE

**[HTTP://CALS-MAC.ARIZONA.EDU/](http://cals-mac.arizona.edu/)
[HTTPS://WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/MARICOPAAGCENTER](https://www.facebook.com/maricopaagcenter)**

**FREE
EVENT FOR
ALL AGES!!**

FOOD VENDORS
charges do apply.

RAFFLE TICKETS

**Stop by the information booth
to grab a raffle ticket, one per
family.**

SPONSORS



**THE UNIVERSITY
OF ARIZONA®**

Calendar of Events

OCTOBER

6-29

Arizona State Fair

NOVEMBER

18

MAC Family Farm Day

21

Strengthening Families Graduation

DECEMBER

2

Electric Light Parade (Casa Grande)

9

4-H Livestock Lamb/Goat Ear Tagging

9

Electric Light Parade (Eloy)

JANUARY

TBD

Strengthening Families Program (Eloy & Casa Grande)

6

4-H Livestock Veal Ear Tagging

16

G&L Short Course (Apache Junction)

MARCH

21-25

Pinal County Fair

FIND US. LIKE US. FOLLOW US.

Facebook Pages:

- [Pinal County Garden and Landscape Program](#)
- [Maricopa Master Gardeners](#)
- [Pinal County 4-H](#)
- [Child Care Health Consultation for Pinal County, AZ](#)
- [Sensory & Developmental Screening](#)

Webpage: [CALS, Pinal County](#)

Twitter: [@RickGibson4](#)

Blog: [ricksgardenspot.blogspot.com](#)



Richard D. Gibson, County Extension Director
Blase Evancho, Field Crops Systems Assistant in Extension
Kimberly Gressley, 4-H Youth Development Agent
Victor Jimenez, 4-H Youth Development Agent
Cathy L. Martinez, Family Consumer Health Science Agent

gibsonrd@cals.arizona.edu
bee1@cals.arizona.edu
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vicjimenez@yahoo.com
clmartin@cals.arizona.edu

4-H provides educational opportunities for youth to become capable and contributing members of a global community. Children, ages 5-19, learn about healthy lifestyles, animals, plant sciences, and leadership.
Contact: Kimberly Gressley at (520) 836-5221, x.213 or gressley@cals.arizona.edu

Agronomic Field Crops uses research and education efforts to work to improve field crop productivity and global food and fiber supply, farm economic viability, and protecting the environment.
Contact: Rick Gibson at (520) 836-5221, x.227 or gibsonrd@cals.arizona.edu

ASPIRE (Achieving Success by Promoting Readiness for Education and Employment) is a program designed to help foster independence in youths with disabilities between the ages of 14-16, and ultimately improve their educational and employment opportunities.
Contact: Sally Peoples at (520) 836-5221, x.224 or speoples@cals.arizona.edu

Child Care Health Consultations (CCHC) develops relationships with childcare facilities to provide training to staff that will improve their knowledge and practice in the childcare setting.
Contact: Janet Jepsen at (520) 836-4651 or janetj@cals.arizona.edu

Choose Health Action Teen (CHAT) is designed to recruit teens to teach younger children the benefits of healthy eating and active living. Teens also participate in community service events.
Contact: Esmeralda Castillo at (520) 836-5221 or ecastill@cals.arizona.edu

Developmental Program reaches out to families with children, ages 0-5, to screen for early developmental milestones such as gross and fine motor skills, communication, personal-social skills, and problem-solving capacities.
Contact: Esther Turner at (520) 836-5221, x.211 or eturner@cals.arizona.edu

Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP) is a nutrition education class designed to assist limited resource families in eating smart and being active and in acquiring the knowledge, skills, and behavioral changes necessary to contribute to their personal development and the improvement of the total family diet, nutritional and physical well-being.
Contact: Esmeralda Castillo at (520) 836-5221 or ecastill@cals.arizona.edu

First Smiles is an oral health program that provides preventative oral health education, oral screening, referral to dentists for children birth to age five and pregnant women; and fluoride varnishing for children with emergent teeth up to age five.
Contact: Greeta Mills at (520) 836-4651 or gmills@email.arizona.edu

MAC (Maricopa Agricultural Center) Farm Ag-Ventures educational programs include a combination of videos, educational presenters, hands-on learning experiences and tractor-trailer rides around their 2,200 acre farm for a close-up view of what makes a working farm operate.
Contact: Victor Jimenez at (520) 374-6216 or vicjimenez@yahoo.com

Master Gardener Program trains volunteers to provide up-to-date, locally tested practical information to those desiring to improve the quality and effectiveness of desert gardens and landscapes.
Contact: Rick Gibson at (520) 836-5221, x.227 or gibsonrd@cals.arizona.edu

Project WET (Water Education for Teachers) is a program designed to teach educators how to better integrate water education, water conservation, and best management practices for water use into their curriculums.
Contact: Chuck Dugan at (520) 836-5221, x.210 or clld1@email.arizona.edu

Sensory Program provides free screenings of children, ages 0-5, for vision and hearing impairments that could affect developmental growth.
Contact: Esther Turner at (520) 836-5221, x.211 or eturner@cals.arizona.edu

Soil Fertility Research and Education is a program that focuses on the development of research and education on soil testing, nutrient management, and fertilizer and animal waste best management practices.
Contact: Rick Gibson at (520) 836-5221, x.227 or gibsonrd@cals.arizona.edu

Strengthening Families Program is a parenting and family strengthening program for families with children ages 3-5, that focuses on strengthening parental bonds with their children and learning more effective parenting skills.
Contact: Esther Turner at (520) 836-5221, x.211 or eturner@cals.arizona.edu

University of Arizona Nutrition Network (UANN) is a program designed to influence healthy eating and active living in a positive way that promotes health and reduces disease among all people living in Arizona.
Contact: Lori Lieder at (520) 836-5221, x.216 or llieder@cals.arizona.edu