



What's Happening - News

GREENLEE COUNTY, COOPERATIVE EXTENSION



Director's Notes

Kim McReynolds, County Extension Director and Area Agent, Natural Resources

As we head into the fall season, I look back at how blessed we were with the summer monsoon season this year. Green grass and colorful summer flowers were a wonderful change to the scenery. It followed on a year of extreme drought, the kind that only happens once in 100 years. Our Extension faculty and staff have been preparing for our fall youth and adult programs, including the Greenlee County Fair and our annual Pumpkin Patch Day. Below are some examples of what we have been up to.



Blue Grama at HL Saddle



Flowers at Trail Cabin



Upper Eagle Creek

Nutrition Education, SNAP-Ed

Britta Schnebly, Program Coordinator

For the 2021-22 school year, I'll be testing out some new curricula for the 1st -5th grade students at Duncan Schools. These curricula are geared toward developing critical thinking skills by integrating plant development, practices for healthy gardens and learning food nutrition facts to maintain healthy bodies. For 1st and 2nd grades, each of the Botany on Your Plate lessons focus on one of the main or general parts of a plant, from roots all the way to seeds. The 3rd and 4th grade get to look for clues about nutrition and plant development through The Great Garden Detective Adventure, which also involves learning to look at and experience food through the five senses. The Learn, Grow, Eat & Go! series for the 5th grade class is developed from the Junior Master Gardener manual. These lessons focus on how to develop a garden, such as calculating how much space a plant will need, determining what to grow for the climate and soil available, and take a closer look at how nutrients, minerals, vitamins, etc. from different fruits and vegetables help our bodies. Each class will also have several gardening activities throughout the school year, whether it is out in the gardens or experimenting with growing plants indoors.

At the Greenlee County Fair, one of the 5th grade students approached me and asked, “When are we going to be going into the garden?” At that time, I hadn’t visited the 5th grade class yet, so it was exciting to hear that there was already interest in getting hands into the soil and growing some of that good-for-you green vegetation in the gardens.

4-H Showed Off at the Greenlee County Fair

Ashley Menges, 4-H Youth Development Agent

The Greenlee County Junior Livestock Board did an amazing job putting together a high-quality show and sale. It is impressive to see the number of participants and the opportunities growing every year. This year the fair hosted the first annual Junior Livestock Heifer Show, offered scholarships to graduating seniors, and created an incentive program for youth interested in showing lambs. At fair there were a total of 69 large stock exhibitors from around the county, 25 of those were 4-H members! In the small stock division, there were a total of 12 showmen, 9 of those were 4-H members! If you were watching a large or small stock show at the fair, you would have noticed a sea of white shirts with clovers on the back! All the 4-H youth did amazing showing off all their hard work! We would also like to highlight the following 4-H members:

Grand Champion Hog: Gary Najar

Reserve Champion Hog: Cambree Blakely

County Bred & Fed Goat: Jozilyn Heredia

Sr. Champion Goat Showman: Elissa Sumner

Sr. Champion Lamb Showman: Isabella Villa

Sr. Champion Hog Showman: Gary Najar

Jr. Champion Lamb Showman: Shaylynn Rhoton

Sr. Round Robin Champion: Elissa Sumner

Jr. Round Robin Champion: Shaylynn Rhoton

Grand Champion Poultry: Miles Romero

Grand Champion Rabbit: Lexi Walker

Sr. Champion Poultry Showman: Gabe Clancy

Sr. Reserve Poultry Showman: Deagan Jacobs

Jr. Champion Poultry Showman: Max Clancy

Jr. Reserve Poultry Showman: Sofia Sanchez





STEM Education

Kim Johnson, Instructional Specialist, STEM

From the STEM lab:

The last four weeks have been busy for us all with the start of school across the county and fair preparations. This week we had three of the youth who participated in the Photography Phun project over the summer enter their photographs at the fair. We are excited to see how their work is received. The youth from this project had brand new Canon Rebel t7 DSLRs, that the Greenlee County Library System obtained from a grant, with which to work. Be on the

lookout for more photography projects at the libraries.

We hope to offer a more advanced Lego Mindstorms Ev3 camp in the near future. The youth who have been participating need a bigger challenge. In this camp, youth build a robot and then learn to program it to complete a task. We have some advanced builders who have completed the robot arm and a color sorting machine.

Most recently I have been at Metcalf Elementary teaching the 4th grade about rock types and minerals from our county and volcanoes. I was lucky enough to know a geologist to bring with me to add an extra layer of credibility. Though many of the questions the students had were about rock types in the video game Minecraft, they did learn a lot about our local rock types and copper.

Breaking STEM news!

We are excited to offer a new STEM opportunity for our community. In cooperation with 4-H, we are looking for some teenagers interested in working with adults in our community that need a little help entering the digital age. Teens will need to enroll in 4-H (it's free this year!) for the Tech Changemakers program. They will receive training and support. We will offer online, in-person, and hybrid training sessions free to the community on subjects like how to create a resume and complete job applications online. We have some say in what we bring to our community, so if you have an idea for tech training, please email Kim Johnson at krobbjohnson8@email.arizona.edu.



Horticulture Program

Bill Cook, Program Coordinator

Thank you volunteers!

Once again, we are coming up to our annual Pumpkin Patch event. I would like to take this opportunity to thank our many volunteers, who make this and most of our other programs possible. Not only do volunteers get out there and do the actual labor, but there are also those who work behind the scenes, hauling materials, helping with various programs, assisting with planning and many other tasks. A big Thank You, from the entire staff at Greenlee County Cooperative Extension!



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