In 1862, Abraham Lincoln signed into law the Morrill Act, which started land grant universities.

“Agricultural extension is a general term meaning the application of scientific research and new knowledge to agricultural practices through farmer education. The field of extension now encompasses a wider range of communication and learning activities organized for rural people by professionals from different disciplines, including agriculture, agricultural marketing, health, and business studies.”

“The Cooperative Extension Service, also known as the Extension Service of the USDA, is a non-formal educational program implemented in the United States designed to help people use research-based knowledge to improve their lives. The service is provided by the state's designated land-grant universities.”

- Is in more than 100 colleges and universities that comprise the nation’s Land-Grant University System.
- Is in all 50 states and U.S. Trust Territories.
- Has an office in or near most of the nation’s approximately 3,000 counties.
- Has support from more than 600,000 volunteers nationwide, impacting 6.5 million young people in 4-H.

Gila County and San Carlos Facebook https://www.facebook.com/gilaextension
San Carlos general website page https://extension.arizona.edu/san-carlos-apache-tribe
Developmental and Sensory Screening https://extension.arizona.edu/gila-sc-dss-program
Financial Literacy https://extension.arizona.edu/financial-literacy
Positive Discipline (Gila) https://extension.arizona.edu/positive-discipline-workshops
Gowa: Teachable Moments for Apache Children (San Carlos) https://extension.arizona.edu/gowa
NOPA (San Carlos) https://extension.arizona.edu/san-carlos-apache-tribe-nopa-program

Gila County general website https://extension.arizona.edu/gila
From the Desk of
Letter from Renee Carstens, County Director

Faculty & Staff
Faculty & Staff

Boards & Tribal Council
Board of Supervisors
Extension Advisory Board
San Carlos Tribal Council

Major Gila County Programs
Program Definitions

Chris Jones, Agriculture and Natural Resources
Summary, Programs
Plan of Work

Ashley Hall, Animal Science & Natural Resources
Summary, Programs
Plan of Work

Ashley Dixon-Kleiber, Family Consumer Health Science
Summary, Programs
Plan of Work

Juan Arias, Tribal Extension Programs in San Carlos
Summary, Programs
Plan of Work

Renee Carstens, 4-H Youth Development
Summary, Programs
Plan of Work

Financials
Grants & Donations
Grants & Donations Percentages

Demographics
Gila County

Highlights
Picture pages
From the Director: Renee Carstens

2020 was a year like no other, which challenged our local communities, state, nation, and all the world. We were optimistic as 2021 showed up on our calendars, yet in reflection, 2021 was also an unprecedented year. We continued to face barriers due to the impact of COVID, yet UArizona Cooperative Extension once again demonstrated resiliency, innovation, and flexibility to meet community needs.

The mission of Cooperative Extension is to provide research-based information through education and research programs that help solve issues important to Gila County. It is our goal to work diligently with the residents, additional providers, and other stakeholders to meet our local needs. The work of Cooperative Extension spreads across many disciplines, including community development, agriculture, families, consumer issues, health, youth development, and natural resources. Gila Cooperative Extension offers programs which include forest health, home gardening, 4-H and other youth-development education, family health and wellbeing, youth health screening, financial literacy, and nutrition just to name a few of the many opportunities offered to our residents.

As the pandemic continued through 2021, the Gila County Cooperative Extension team also continued to adapt to the current conditions and persevered to meet community needs. Through collaborations and outreach with constituents, local businesses, public service agencies, educational institutions, and government agencies the team continued to have a pulse on the needs in our county. The team focused on making a commitment to the pertinent needs in the community, understanding the importance of the programs they deliver, and wanting to assist the people of Gila County. We are pleased to share the 2021 annual review and the 2022 plan of work.

This annual report will share the impact of the University of Arizona Gila County Cooperative Extension.

Sincerely,

Renee Carstens
Gila County Extension Director
Cooperative Extension Gila County Faculty & Staff

University of Arizona Cooperative Extension Gila County Faculty & Staff

Juan Arias  Agent, Agriculture and Natural Resources, FRTEP, 4-H, NOPA, San Carlos
Thuy Bishop  Health Educator, DSS, San Carlos
Christine Carlson  Instructional Specialist, CYFAR, San Carlos
Renee Carstens  Gila County Director, Agent for 4-H, Globe
Chrisann Dawson  Instructional Specialist, Sr., DSS GILA COUNTY, Payson
Ashley Dixon-Kleiber  Area Assistant Agent, FCHS, Gila, Pinal, & Yuma Counties, Globe
Benjamin Downer  Program Coordinator, FCHS and 4-H Youth Development, Globe
Mori Farmer  Business Manager, Payson
Cate Gore  Instructional Specialist, Financial Literacy, Positive Parenting, Globe
Ashley Hall  Area Assistant Agent, Agriculture and Natural Resources, Gila & Pinal Counties, Globe
Jon Hatch  Program Coordinator, 4-H National Mentor, Payson
Teri James  Instructional Specialist, NOPA, San Carlos
Christopher Jones  Agent, Agriculture & Natural Resources, Globe
Roxanne McInturff  Administrative Secretary, Globe
Nicole Talkalai  Secretary, San Carlos
Melody Thomas  Instructional Specialist, NOPA, San Carlos

San Carlos Apache Tribe
Tribal Council

Board of Supervisors
Steve Christensen  District I
Tim Humphrey  District II
Woody Cline  District III

Advisory Board
Clark Richins  Chairman
Dorine Prine  Vice Chair
Marsha Fitzugh  Secretary/Treasurer
Janet Brandt
Ben Dalmolin
Mike Henderson
Sammie Jenkins
Cassie Waggoner

Terry Rambler  Tribal Chairman
Tao Etpison  Vice Chairman
Barbara May  Gilson Wash
Simon Hooke  Gilson Wash
Bernadette Goode  Seven Mile Wash
John Antonio Jr.  Seven Mile Wash
Valerie Key-Cheney  Peridot
Dr. John Bush  Peridot
Allred Pike Jr.  Bylas
Jonathan Kitcehyan  Bylas
Eugene David Nozie

University of Arizona Gila County Boards & Tribal Council 2020

San Carlos Tribal Council

Tribal Chairman
Vice Chairman
Gilson Wash
Gilson Wash
Seven Mile Wash
Seven Mile Wash
Peridot
Peridot
Bylas
Bylas
Bylas
The primary responsibility of this position is to create and supervise community outreach programs that provide research-based, objective, formal and informal education within the areas of health, nutrition, physical activity, family life skills and development, and Parenting and Financial Literacy. Using community needs and assessment data, the agent develops and conducts programs which address priority needs. The agent assists adults and families by building connections with community groups, agencies, and other organizations.

**Animal Science & Natural Resources**

**Ashley Hall**  
Area Assistant Agent

The primary responsibility of this position is to provide leadership in developing and conducting research-based educational programs in animal science, primarily livestock production, and range management with an emphasis in Gila (80% responsibility) and Pinal (20% responsibility) Counties. A major programming effort is in administering the federally funded *Reading the Range* rangeland vegetation monitoring program which is in place on over one million acres on the Tonto National Forest. This program is a critical need because it provides information which quantifies rangeland health and the sustainability of livestock grazing.

**Agriculture & Natural Resource**

**Christopher Jones**  
Agent

The Forest Health Extension Program develops educational resources and implements outreach activities to raise awareness and address forest health issues in Gila County, including wildland fire. Issues include insect and disease, fire-adapted community education and wildfire mitigation, and forest product opportunities, such as biochar. A primary responsibility of this position is to provide leadership in developing, implementing, and evaluating educational programs. These programs aim to improve the sustainability of natural resources as well as rural communities. Another goal is to increase understanding and involvement in natural resources, not only including forest, but also watershed issues and horticulture in the rural community. A final aim is to increase the effectiveness of clientele, groups, and individuals, and to empower them to solve their own problems, improving their lives as well as the quality of life for the community.

**Nutrition/Obesity/Physical Activity**

**Teri James / Melody Thomas**  
Instructional Specialist / Instructional Specialist

These positions are responsible for educational sessions and enrichment activities to introduce children 0-5, their parents, and childcare givers to healthy nutritional options. Responsible to participate in outreach activities to promote the multiple programs, provide assistance for training, and collect evaluation.

**Children, Youth, & Families At-Risk**

**Christine Carlson**  
Instructional Specialist

This position is to improve the quality and quantity of comprehensive community-based programs for at-risk children, youth, and families supported by the Cooperative Extension System.

**Family Consumer Health Sciences**

**Ashley Dixon-Kleiber / Benjamin Downer**  
Area Assistant Agent / Program Coordinator

The primary responsibility of this position is to establish and support Extension outreach on Federally Recognized Indian Reservations and Tribal jurisdictions of Federally recognized Tribes. The position seeks to continue the land grants mission of providing educations and research-based knowledge to the community. It also aims to provide 4-H youth development programs, focus on delivering curricula that promote like skills, horticulture activities, nutrition, and career opportunities. In addition, to provide resources in Agriculture and Natural resources that support rancher/farmers to expand their business and or programs. This position is funded by USDA-NIFA funds that support a full-time agent and half time administrative position in the San Carlos Apache Tribe.

**Federally Recognized Tribal Extension Program**

**Juan Arias**  
Assistant Agent

**FCHS Financial Literacy / Positive Discipline**

**Cate Gore**  
Instructional Specialist

These positions are responsible for outreach and delivering of the Financial Literacy and Parenting curriculum with instruction workshops, events, activities, and evaluations throughout Gila County.

**University of Arizona Nutrition Network Developmental & Sensory Screening**

**Thuy Bishop / Chrisann Dawson**  
Health Educator / Instructional Specialist

These positions work for the sensory (vision/hearing) and developmental screenings throughout all of Gila County and San Carlos. This position provides and promotes screening services to young children, ages 0-5 and educating their parents and caregivers.

Building partnerships with the different entities within these areas has allowed the program to be more visible and known among the different agencies and the communities.

**AmeriCorps—UACE Wildcat Corps**

**June Wesley / Mike Kim**  
San Carlos

A statewide network, it provides lifelong educational programs for all Arizonans. Members commit their time to address community needs with service that strengthens the capacity of youth to increase educational attainment, address community needs, and fosters positive youth development.
Forest Health and Sustainability Programs—Chris Jones

Reached at least 1,285 adult clientele in the county, state and nationally, including 50 youth clients at the annual “FFA Career Development” event.

**Garden & Country Extension Webinar Series**

Organized and hosted 19 webinars addressing Forest Health issues. (These webinars logged 1,143 cumulative views.) Several of these webinars addressed forest health and Firewise education, in response to the Telegraph (180,757 acres) and Mescal (72,250 acres) fires. These included, “Be Ember Aware” home ignition mitigation, in which the agent was featured on ABC15; Firewise Landscaping in the Sonoran Desert as part of the Desert Horticulture Conference; and the Modern Wildfire Situation as part of the Chandler Library STEM series.

**Biochar Opportunities in the Southwest: Extension Workshop**

- Organized and hosted a three-day Biochar Opportunities in the Southwest: Extension Virtual Workshop.
- Partnered with Forest Health Extension colleagues in NM, CO and UT. The workshop featured national level advocates, Forest Service and Extension researchers, and local entrepreneurs.
- Between 192 and 208 people participated. Featured presentations are posted at Gila County Forest Health Extension.
- As a result of the workshop, the agent was invited to present an overview about biochar for two groups in Arizona.

**Cobre Valley Watershed Partnership**

Worked with the Cobre Valley Watershed Partnership to coordinate community efforts to restore riparian corridors after the Telegraph fire and to offer recreational opportunities. A key event was the After the Fire Hybrid Seminar: the agent co-planned and delivered this event October 29 and 30. Key CVWP partners include Ashley Hullinger and Ben Downer. It featured County Supervisor Tim Humphrey, the mayors of Globe, Miami and Superior, Tonto NF Globe District Ranger Adam Bromley and others. There were 42 live participants and 34 online for both days. Ben Downer prepared the video recordings: [https://extension.arizona.edu/after-the-fire](https://extension.arizona.edu/after-the-fire)

**Gila County’s Community Wildfire Protection Plans**

Partnered with county planner Celena Cates, to revise and update both the Northern and Southern Gila County Community Wildfire Protection Plans. Included attending several meetings with county fire chiefs, emergency services and helped other partners to guide educational objectives, fuel types, landscaping and home construction data.

**Other Forest Health/Firewise Activities**

Agent responded to an increased number of insect and disease calls and emails (approx. 1-15/month), including bark beetles, leaf-footed bugs, sphinx moth larvae, slime mold and others; promoted post-fire flooding mitigation and sandbagging techniques via social media; and helped initiate our office team to fill sandbags for the county on July 7 (12 participants, 300 bags—probably more).
Provided significant educational experiences to at least 1,094 clients through webinars, classes and presentations open to the public.

**Garden & Country Extension Webinars** Organized and hosted eleven webinars addressing horticulture-related issues, including the 9 community gardening classes discussed below. There were 2,862 cumulative views of the horticulture—related webinars. They included:

- How to Prune a Shade Tree (Jan Groth, Cochise County Extension, 74 participants);
- Starting Vegetable Seedlings (Rich Johnson, Gila County Master Gardener, 107 participants);
- Waggin' Vineyard LLC: Agritourism in Globe, AZ (Timothy Trent, proprietor, 13 participants);
- Vertebrate Pests in the Garden (Bill Cook, UA Greenlee County, 34 participants);
- Start your Winter Garden (Rich Johnson, Gila County Master Gardener, 64 participants);
- Drought and Extreme Heat: Plant responses and landscape maintenance practices (Dr Ursula Schuch, UA Commercial Horticulture Specialist, 43 participants);
- Seed Saving (Bill Cook, UA Greenlee County, 29 participants);
- Tree Planting: Arborists’ Best Mgmt. Practices (Rebecca Senior, Maricopa County, 26 participants);
- Pollinator Plants to Plant Now, and Fall Planting (Jan Groth, Cochise County, 27 participants);
- Insects, Weather and Climate (Dr Dawn Gouge, UA Entomology Specialist, 21 participants);
- Native Plants for Arizona Landscaping (Gayle Gratop, UA Coconino Country, 51 participants.)

**Payson Community Gardener Classes** Partnered with the Payson Community Garden to offer their annual spring gardening classes for the community garden. Hosted nine 1-hr gardening classes from February 11 to April 15. The series included 10 webinars, with Chris Jones and 7 PCG presenters, at least 572 total live participants, and 1,215 views of the recordings at https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLfm_TJZ-97vW7mTRx6Qo1GkCCyElFEGGKE.

**Gardening Classes in Young** Offered summer gardening shortcourse at the Young Public Library from June 15 to August 3. Six to eight students attended eight weekly classes, which accommodated social distancing in small room. The usual spring and/or fall gardening classes in Globe and/or Payson were curtailed due to Covid-19 concerns.

**Payson Master Gardener Group** The group continued to hold regular meetings live and via Zoom. Outreach and service activities included: Four Payson Master Gardeners and Agent grafted local pioneer heritage specimen scions to trees at the Payson Apple Orchard on February 24. Phase 1 guidelines were followed; leading and managing the Payson Seed Library (6 MG volunteers), and three MG volunteers assisted farmer Ram Kahlsa who operates a small organic farm in Gisela and sells produce at the Payson Farmers' Market.

**Other Efforts Delivered by Agent** Delivered horticulture information and assistance through approximately 70 phone calls and 90 email clients. Phone and email inquiries increased due to COVID-19 and the webinar series. Agent assisted Payson area grant-writer, Angela Day, to pursue a UA AIR grant proposal on local food and greenhouse production project (not funded).
2022 Plan of Work — Chris Jones

**Forest Health & Sustainability**

- Provide leadership for youth education through the FFA Career Development Activity (February). Event includes field exercises and testing in Madera Canyon and UA campus. (55 youth)
- Partner and work with Arizona Department of Forestry and Fire Management (ADFFM) and assist with developing a Fire Adapted Communities Network for Arizona (AZFAC) (throughout the year).
- Seek to partner with Cobre Valley firefighting community and other partners to address Wildland Urban Interface issues (Fall).
- Host a biochar kiln demonstration and workshop in Globe-Miami (March).
- Place an order for copies of the Arizona Living with Wildfire bulletin to replenish supplies and utilize funds that expire with the fiscal year (Spring).
- Collaborate and participate in the Cobre Valley Watershed Partnership and the Water Resources Research Center colleagues to address the regional water budget and other water related issues, including recreation and wildfire recovery (throughout year).
- Host the Garden and County Extension webinar series featuring timely and pertinent topics and speakers about forest health and natural resources issues (summer).

**Home Horticulture**

- Guide and support the Payson Master Gardener group, including supporting the Gisela Farm project (throughout year).
- Teach Master Gardener classes at EAC Payson and Gila Pueblo campuses (Spring).
- Assist volunteers to graft local heritage apple scions at the Payson apple orchard (spring).
- Assist volunteers in Payson and Globe to maintain a community seed library (throughout the year).
- Host the Garden and Country Extension webinar series featuring timely and pertinent topics and speakers about horticulture and gardening issues (summer).
- Attend to public requests by phone and email and make house calls when deemed appropriate (throughout the year).
• A major programming effort is in administering a federally and county funded rangeland vegetation monitoring program which is in place on over 2.9 million acres on the Tonto National Forest. This program is a critical need because it provides information which quantifies rangeland health and the sustainability of public land livestock grazing. In 2021, monitoring took place at 85 key areas across 21 allotments; including 1 allotment (3 new key areas) that had not previously participated.

• VGS, an ecosystem sampling software, is an integral piece of monitoring in Gila County and used by federal, state, and county land management agencies, universities, and private consultants in 27 states. Ashley is a member of the VGS Development Team. She provided support to 166 users during presentations, trainings, and IT support calls/emails.

• Due to the continuation of COVID-19, a limited number of in-person educational opportunities were provided:
  • Two Artificial Insemination (AI) 3-day Clinics were held in June and November at University of Arizona V Bar V Research Ranch in Rimrock, Arizona. 19/30 participants (each clinic is limited to 15 participants for animal welfare).
  • After the Fire Public Meeting was organized with Water Resources Research Center, other Extension Agents, Cobre Valley Watershed Partnership, and US Forest Service. Ashley provided a presentation titled “Why Grass is on the Agenda?” All presentations are available online at https://extension.arizona.edu/after-the-fire.

• As a member of the Arizona Livestock Incident Response Team (ALIRT), visited two ranches that experienced multiple unexpected livestock deaths. Collected information on range conditions, water and tissue samples, and took samples to UA Diagnostic Lab. Shared range summary report with AZ State Vet and other ALIRT members to assist with diagnosis. Participated in 9 hours of in-person and virtual ALIRT training hours.

• Drought Response: In mid-November 2020 Gila Co. was categorized by the US Drought Monitor as being in D4 (exceptional drought) drought conditions. Since then the lowest drought classification has been D1 (abnormally dry). Provided resources on drought contingency plans, supplementation during drought, and options to improve livestock distribution. Visited multiple allotments to provide opinion on available resources and look at range conditions.
**Telegraph Fire Response**

- Re-seeding Meeting: Gila Co. Board of Supervisors purchased seed for residents of El Capitan. Ashley provided information on best practices for re-seeding on private land impacted by the fire.

- Site visits to El Capitan residents’ property. Provided plant identification for species growing on the burn scar.

- Initiated post-fire grazing and restoration research project on Gryphon Ranch in coordination with Carol Ptak (ranch owner), Dr. Elise Gornish (Associate Specialist, Restoration Ecology), Dr. George Ruyle (Specialist, Range Management), and Sarah Noelle (Research Manager II). Research will be ongoing for the next 3-5 years.

- Focused on monitoring key areas that burned during the fire to document vegetation recovery. Also focused on allotments impacted by Bush Fire (2020). Immediately after Bush Fire Gila Co. experienced severe drought conditions for two growing seasons resulting in minimal vegetation response until monsoon of 2021.

**Research Grants and Contracts**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Funding Agency Sponsor</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Developing Opportunities and Growing Business of Limited-Resource and Native American Beginning Farmers and Ranchers in Arizona</td>
<td>USDA-National Institute of Food and Agriculture</td>
<td>$48,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Range Land Monitoring and Training</td>
<td>Bureau of Indian Affairs</td>
<td>$12,850</td>
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<tr>
<td>Supporting Arizona Farmers’</td>
<td>USDA</td>
<td>$19,804</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reading the Range Technical Assistance</td>
<td>USFS</td>
<td>$30,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reading the Range Technical Assistance</td>
<td>Tonto NRCD</td>
<td>$30,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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**Scholarly Contributions**

- Provided 8 presentations on research or county programming at conferences at a national, regional, and local level.
- Presented 2 posters at national meetings.
- Lead or co-author on 3 publications and 2 statewide Range and Livestock newsletter articles.
Service and Professional Development

- Participated in 80 hours of professional development courses.
- Secretary of Rangelands Partnership Executive Council.
- Co-chair for planning committee for International Society for Rangeland Management 2022 annual conference.
- Served as a member of hiring committee for 3 VGS Development Team Members.
- Peer reviewed 4 publications.

Awards

- **National 3rd Place Award** - Extension Education Poster, National Association of County Agriculture Agents—with Andrew Brischke (Coconino and Mohave Counties) and Kim McReynolds (Greenlee and Cochise Counties).
- **National 1st Place Award** - Search for Excellence in Environmental Quality, Forestry and Natural Resources Programs, National Association of County Agriculture Agents — with Andrew Brischke and Kim McReynolds.
- **Western Region Award** - Video Communication, National Association of County Agriculture Agents — with Andrew Brischke and Kim McReynolds.

2022 Plan of Work

Rangeland Management and Livestock Production

**Rangeland Monitoring**

- Work with USFS Tonto Range Staff and Permittees to continue establishing monitoring sites on allotments not yet involved in monitoring program (5 allotments remaining).
- Provide Tonto Range Staff and Ranchers with monitoring summaries and reports.

**VGS Development Team (DevTeam)**

- Provide VGS 5.0 and Online trainings as needed to current/new users.
- Provide VGS Online training to Tonto National Forest Range Staff to expedite monitoring reporting process.
- Continue to provide IT support to current users. Alpha/beta test new operating systems and provide detailed reports to other DevTeam members on user interface changes to be made.
- Serve on hiring committee for new DevTeam members (C#.NET Developer).
Research

- Forage Nutrition Analysis.
- Gryphon Ranch post-fire grazing and post-fire restoration.

Providing Educational Outreach and Resources

- Resume work on Pleasant Valley Museum native flora and invasive species display.
- Provide two workshops in Gila and/or Pinal County per year.
- Publications and Scholarly Works.
- Continue to contribute articles to statewide quarterly “Range and Livestock Newsletter.”
- Continue to update publications for the “Arizona Ranchers’ Management Guide.”
- Revise and re-submit article to Journal of Extension.
- Submit posters and/or presentation abstracts to present on programming or research at local, regional, or national conferences.

Youth Development

- Involve 4-H youth in Gryphon Ranch research project.
- Organize the 58th annual Natural Resource Conservation Workshop or Arizona Youth.
- Provide “Rangeland Health” Ag Daze lesson.
- Assist R. Carstens in judging non-animal 4-H project at the Gila County Fair (as needed).

Service

- Complete Co-Chair duties related to planning the International Society for Range Management 2022 Annual Conference.
- Serve on Executive Council of the Rangelands Partnership.
- Participate in local meetings - Winkelman and Tonto NRCD, Gila Co. Cattle Growers, Board of Supervisors.
Financial Literacy

- **2 Where Does Your Money Go? (WDY$G?)** Workshops offered in-person in Gila County.
- **32 Where Does Your Money Go?** Workshops offered virtually:
  - 97% of respondents reported they will think differently about how they manage their money.
  - 92% of respondents said they could have more money if they made different spending choices.
  - 78% reported “spending leaks” over the course of one year averaging $3,395 annually.
- **9 Building Financial Security for Self, Family, and Community** series offered (45 individual classes).
- Participants (virtual) reached by Gila County: staff 48 participants in WDY$G? & 24 participants for Building Financial Security (attended at least Lesson One).
- 1 video prerecorded regarding finances made by Gila County staff; 310 individuals viewed the prerecorded video.
- 24 infographics created to distribute to the public (e.g., Develop a Good Credit Score, The Debt Snowball, Financial Tips During the Fall Season)- 7,066 individuals viewed, 187 engagements.

Positive Discipline

- 6 infographics created to distribute to parents with children 3-18 year old (Family Meetings, Natural Consequences, Kind & Firm, Listening, Problem Solving, Letting Go) - 775 individuals viewed, 45 engagements.
- 50+ parenting sessions conducted by Gila County staff-- 85 participants taught by Gila County staff.
- 8 additional series held online for statewide participation-- 170 program participants statewide.
- Over ¾ of participants (85%) reported increased frequency of understanding their children’s belief behind the misbehavior. 77% report an increase in frequency of responding to their children with kindness & firmness. A majority (51%) reported reducing the frequency with which they yell at their children.
- UA Positive Discipline staff (including Gila County staff) delivered two presentations on curriculum-based activities at the Positive Discipline Think Tank conference in San Diego.

Developmental and Sensory Screening, Gila

In 2021 this program provided the following:

- 227 Vision screenings on children between the ages of 1-5 years of age.
- 228 Hearing screenings on children between the ages of 1-5 years of age.
- 24 ASQ3 screenings on children between the ages of 0-5 years of age.
- 24 families received guidance to assist their child develop in particular domains and improve their overall development, and 42 children received referrals after a screenings was completed.

First Smiles (Oral Health) Gila Region

- 17 0-5-year-olds received oral health screenings– 13 had fluoride varnish applied.
- 1 professional training session was held about the importance of dental health and brushing teeth, including a book reading to the younger children.
Developmental and Sensory Screenings, San Carlos

In 2021 this program provided the following:

- 142 Vision screening on children between the ages of 1-5 years of age.
- 67 Hearing screenings on children between the ages of 1-5 years of age.
- 15 ASQ3 screenings on children between the ages of 0-5 years of age.
- 15 families received guidance to assist their child develop in particular domains and improve their overall development, and 75 children received a referral after a screening was completed.
- 19 videos prerecorded for future viewing of families and their children 0-5 years of age—1,648 total views of the prerecorded videos.

Nutrition, Obesity and Physical Activity (NOPA; San Carlos)

Splits this project with FRTEP Assistant Agent Arias housed in San Carlos. In 2021 this program provided the following:

- 321 garden kit packages were delivered to childcare locations and directly to children’s homes. These packets included information on crookneck squash, how to plant them at home, new words to grow and vocabulary to expand, recipes, and the book The Little Gardener (Teenie Greenies), by Jan Gerardi.
- 252 children were reached through programming Grow It, Like It, Try It!
- 79 parents/caregivers participated in at least 1 session of Eating Smart, Being Active.
- 117 childcare providers attended at least 1 session of Healthy Kids, Healthy Future series.
- 7 videos prerecorded for future viewing about nutrition/physical activity for families and their children 0-5 years of age (e.g., Spinach Planting, Sweet Potatoes, Peaches, Squash)—337 total views of the prerecorded videos.
- 26 infographics created to distribute with specific age appropriate nutrition/physical activities—3,517 individuals viewed, and 175 individuals liked, shared, or commented on infographics.

Child Care Health Consultation (CCHC), Gila Region

In 2021 this program provided the following to 6 Gila child care sites:

- 73 total interactions with sites.
- Assisted with 3 communicable disease outbreaks, non-COVID (e.g. RVS, ).
- Held one diapering training and one cleaning training.
- 2 sites visited in-person to drop off essential PPE and other supplies (masks, gloves, bleach, thermometers, wipes) for COVID-19 prevention so that they may remain open.

Gowa: Teachable Moments for Apache Children

- 1 pilot session of the Multisession Family Literacy Program in San Carlos—3 families participated.
- 27 videos prerecorded for future viewing of families—2,326 total views and 366 engagements.
- 44 single session drop-in literacy events across both San Carlos Apache and Navajo communities. These sessions were attended by 219 families (242 adults and 238 children; almost 90% were American Indian or Alaska Native) and 77 books were distributed as part of these events.
- 99% of participants reported that they liked the events, and 96% reported that they would like to attend another event.
Family and Community Engagement

Developmental, Sensory and Screening (DSS; Gila Region)
- Deliver screenings to children 0-5 years old by at least 300 in First Things First Gila Region for vision and hearing, as well as 100 children for developmental.
- Identify children who need referrals, make appropriate referrals when needed and primary care givers will take their children to their medical home when screening indicates it is appropriate work towards improving access to early intervention for vision, hearing, and developmental health issues for young children.
- Renew First Things First (FTF) annual grant: $43,750 through FY23

Developmental, Sensory and Screening (DSS; San Carlos Apache Region)
- Deliver screenings to children 0-5 years old by at least 250 in First Things First San Carlos Apache Region for vision and hearing, as well as 100 children for developmental.
- Participate in at least 20 community educational programs on San Carlos Apache tribal lands to share the importance of early screening and detection.
- Identify children who need referrals, make appropriate referrals when needed and primary care givers will take their children to their medical home when screening indicates it is appropriate.
- Renew First Things First (FTF) annual grant: $116,000 through FY23.

Positive Discipline (Parenting) Program
- Increase the number of parents or caregivers in Gila County receiving parenting - focused education by 20 through improving communication and understanding; 150 statewide.
- Increase parent and caregiver knowledge and skills to more effectively deal with their child's behavior; 75% of participants will demonstrate understanding of statements regarding skill and knowledge.
- At least twenty-five (25%) of the participants will demonstrate the use of positive disciple techniques when compared to harsh or corporal punishment; demonstrate an increase of 25% of the numbers of behaviors parents view as strengths.
- Funded and PI for $400,000 foundation fund through 2022.

Financial Literacy Program
- Increase the number of adults by at least 50 in Gila County who attend and receive financial literacy programming; 200 statewide.
- Change 75% of respondent’s minds about how they think about money.
- Increase adult knowledge and skills, to more effectively manage in dealing with their finances; at least 50% of participants will demonstrate understanding of at least one financial literacy concept regarding skill and knowledge.
- Funded through 2022 and PI for $400,000 foundation fund (split with positive discipline above).

GOWA: Teachable Moments (Early - Literacy Program, San Carlos)
- Focus on gaining tribal approval and a resolution.
- Hold more than 15 drop-in literacy lessons.
- Implementation of early-literacy program, parent-child program, and childcare provider program.
- Total grant funds for 5 years: $640,000.

Financial Socialization for Families with Teens
- Fusion curriculum to teach families with teens-parenting skills and reduce stress through gaining control of their finances.
- Would be offered in Miami and South Tucson.
- Submitted grant for $614,000.
Health, Wellness and Healthy Living

Oral Health
- Increase the number of children 0-5 screened for oral health by 300 and provide fluoride varnish in least 200 children 0-5 years old.
- Educate at least 200 children on the importance of dental health as well as provide health promotion, screening, referral and navigation for 20 expectant mothers in Gila County.
- Renew First Things First (FTF) annual grant: $36,000 through FY23.

Child Care Health Consultant (CCHC)
- Increase the number of visits focused on improving quality of child care particularly surrounding health and wellness of both providers and those for whom they care (12 minimal visits in 2022).
- Make changes in child care settings to improve health, wellness and safety of care; changes in provider knowledge and skills; will maintain, work towards, or receive higher than 3 Star rating from Quality First in all 6 early child care sites in Gila Region, 39 sites in Pinal, 38 sites in Yuma, and expansion to La Paz.
- Continue to oversee and supervise CCHC staff in 4 counties: Gila, Yuma, and Pinal (including Gila River tribal lands), La Paz/Mohave.
- Renew First Things First (FTF) annual grant: $318,160 through FY23.

Nutrition, Obesity and Physical Activity (NOPA San Carlos Apache; in partnership with FRTEP Agent Juan Arias).
- Expand number of participants receiving nutrition education, deliver nutrition programming series about healthy eating and physical activity to at least:
  - 50 parents
  - 300 children
  - Train at least 50 Child-Care Professionals about incorporating healthy/safety standards into their classroom (family style meals, daily physical activities, reducing juice consumption, sun safety).
- Maintain at least 10 active gardens for community participation in growing native plants/produce.
- Renew First Things First (FTF) annual grant: $100,000 through FY23.

Service / Publications

Lastly, all of the above work plan is a team effort. Without the hard work of the Gila County FCHS staff (currently: Chrisann Dawson, Ben Downer, Cate Gore, Melody Thomas, Christine Carlson, Shelby Gibson, Sandra Lozano, and others), Renee Carstens- Gila CED, fellow Agents in Gila, and UACE administrative staff, impacts possible would be nominal when compared to what we are able to achieve together for the children, youth, and families of Gila County!!!
- Lead statewide Financial Literacy Workgroup (11 counties represented).
- Serve as member on 4 additional statewide working groups (e.g. collective impact, FCHS marketing, professional development).
- Serve as President for Arizona Extension Association of Family and Consumer Science.
- Accepted bid to host 2024 for our national association (500-800 attendees estimated).
- Serve as lead Co-Editor for NEAFCS Journal.
- Continue to attend community-based meetings, networks, collaborations.
- Work with state and national colleagues to write, present, and publish on a variety of topics.
- Lead and support CCHC efforts in Pinal, Yuma, La Paz/Mohave Counties.
San Carlos Federally Recognized Tribal Extension Programs, Partnerships, & Funding

Nutrition, Obesity and Physical Activity (NOPA; San Carlos)

*Grow It, Try It, Like It! Program delivered in San Carlos Apache Region.* Teri James Instructional Specialist delivered several food tasting, literacy, nutritional activities along with tribal agent garden activities and resources.

- 12 gardens were planted and maintained during this reporting period before restrictions.
- 640 planting kits (Spinach and Squash) provided for families to grow at home and continue hands-on activities at home during COVID-19.
- 640 children were reached through programming, outreach, and events like, *Grow It, Like It, Try It!*
- 320 unduplicated children reached through programming *Grow It, Try It, Like It!*
- 57 providers were reached through programming Training *Grow It, Try It, Like It!*
- 24 in person along with 8 virtual sessions reaching 17 classroom in San Carlos.

Children, Youth and Families At Risk (CYFAR) Early Literacy Program San Carlos to Promote Early Language and Literacy Development in Native Communities

- Working with Extension Specialist and Assistant Professor Dr. Speirs & FCHS Agent Dixon to develop and provide literacy programs in the San Carlos Apache Region program GOWA Teachable Moments for Apache Children.
- The goal of this five-year (September 2019 - August 2024) CYFAR-funded project is to develop a comprehensive, community-based and sustainable Extension program to promote young—children’s early literacy. This project takes place in two American Indian communities in Arizona: the Baby College 101: Courses for Alchíni Yázhi program serves the Navajo communities near Sanders, AZ (the Nahata Dziil, Wide Ruins, Pine Springs, and Houck Chapters) and the Gowa: Teachable Moments for Apache Children program serves the communities of the San Carlos Apache Tribe.

NAAF Native Youth Utilizing Technology:

- Connect with local Agriculture & Natural Resources careers and leaders in developing relationship with youth to preserve knowledge of the land through educational activities that include technology. Program to get youth exposed to agriculture in 5 different tribal locations.

NAAF Native American Agriculture Fund Program: Expanding Tribal Capacity to Improve Animal/Human Health and Enhance Economic Sustainability

- This project is funded for 12-months by the Native American Agricultural Fund (NAAF) and developed to build the capacity, sustainability, and critical food system infrastructure within multiple Tribes in Arizona. This project has developed draft evidence-based, culturally competent, and locally relevant curriculum and workshops to improve food security and sovereignty within tribal communities. Provided in 5 tribal locations in partnership with Equine Specialist and FRTEP agents.

San Carlos Region Farm to School Action Planning:

- To develop a “Farm to School” action plan on the San Carlos Apache Reservation. The Reservation is recognized as a "food desert" where tribal members have little to no access to fresh food. Over 98% of students at the partner schools are eligible for the free and reduced-price lunch program. The Reservation struggles with childhood obesity, diabetes, and other nutrition-related health problems. Partners are in the planning stages of developing a tribe-owned farm into a Community Food Hub which includes expanded production acreage, a market, a commercial kitchen, and a business incubation center.

Apache Giant, Apache Red Corn & Apache Red Lane Senior Archery
San Carlos Federally Recognized Tribal Extension Programs Agriculture, Natural Resources & Youth Development (FRTEP)

Program delivery and operations of program under FRTEP funding and resources provided to San Carlos Apache Tribe in 2021.

- 25 youth-development sessions on horticulture/archery/garden topics offered throughout the San Carlos Apache region.
- 5 virtual youth-development sessions held on horticulture/garden topics for collaborative partners, *Financial Health For Tribal Producers Webinar Series* (multiple videos).
- 7 Beef Quality Assurance Certificate Training.
- Infographics created to distribute specific to planting, nutrition MyPlate, Apache traditional planting activities, or youth.
- 30 Apache Rancher guides developed (Extension Resources/local topics).
- 4 presentations delivered via zoom and in-person for plant needs, composting, pest management, seed saving, proper planting techniques, and harvesting.
- 4 garden sites continued with basic garden activities along 1 quarter acre garden farm demonstration.
- Distributed promoting Extension resources and reaching youth families with kits that included seeds, soil, pots, and instruction on how to plant.
- 72 Biosecurity posters distributed in Apache/English collaborative effort with Equine Specialist.
- 4 presentations delivered via zoom and in-person for plant needs, composting, pest management, seed saving, proper planting techniques, harvesting, and irrigation.
- 1 promotional video exploring programs offered presented in Extension Conference.
- Acquired funding to support 7 tribal locations for tribal youth-development activities.

**Outcomes**

- 140 unduplicated youth reached through programming Junior Master Gardner and 4-H.
- 12 leaders/educators reached during the delivery of *Junior Master Gardner* and 4-H youth development.
- 94 Ranchers/Farmers reached during webinars and workshops offered in the area of livestock/equine/financial literacy workshops.
- 15 pounds of sugar cane seeds harvested, 9 pounds of Tepary beans harvested, 4 pounds of Apache giant seeds, 7 pounds of Apache red corn, 8 pounds of Apache dipper gourds, 6 Apache giant sunflower harvested for seed bank and community seed distribution.
- 4-20 x 20 gardens were planted and maintained during program implementation demonstration and education youth development.
- One-quarter acre area garden grown and maintained for training.
- 3220 lbs. of produce harvested from the quarter-acre garden with NDC non-profit. (zucchini, tomatoes, peppers, watermelon, cantaloupe, native squash, and beans).
- 1-20 x 20 garden area was planted and maintained for soil preservation, and seed saving.
Agriculture Natural Resources (FRTEP)

- Continue to Develop *Apache Rancher Guide* resource book to support cattle association and community.
- Increase Access to Beef Quality Assurance to Tribal producers using adapted measures and hands on activities.
- Identify locations /collaborators/ veterinarian to assist in training rancher/members in areas of vaccines, record keeping, beef - quality assurance, biosecurity, branding, marketing, tagging cattle/equine topics.
- Implement Informed Equestrian Resources to increase youth and adult participation in Horsemanship/Gymkhanas.
- Expand Food Hub operations/facilities improvement to support local gardens/small livestock operations with collaboration and funding.
- Increase local seed bank of native crops /conventional crops to increase food sovereignty activities.
- Continue to reintroduce traditional gardens and resources in the community for hands-on garden with youth and adults at schools & partner sites.

Youth Development and Family programs (FRTEP)

- Deliver hands on youth practicum/land daze to promote agriculture and natural resources careers.
- Promote, outreach, and expand youth-development programs in areas (Technology, Horticulture, Equine, Livestock, food preservation & 4-H resources) in San Carlos.
- Continue Junior Master Gardener activities with partners and promote youth development.
- Continue *Grow It, Try It, Like It!* gardening activities with early childhood-care centers and First Things First.
- Continue garden activities to promote land management, healthy eating, and language.
- Assist in the development of GOWA Teachable Moments for Apache Children program.
- Introduce youth to drone technology and local leaders to promote agriculture careers.

Service

- Participate in Cattle Associations/NRCS board meetings/Non-Profit partners local community meetings.
- Participate in Integrated Resource Management Planning Team for project development.
- Participate in Education/Agriculture/Health collaborative meetings to promote Tribal Extension.
- Continue to work with agents in diverse areas of topics to improve the delivery of Tribal Extension Programs in San Carlos.
- Participate in Food Access, Emergency Disaster Team, and USDA resource meetings to partner and connect the community to resources.
- Partner with the tribal department to support communities priorities to deliver services as a FRTEP tribal Agent.
The University of Arizona Cooperative Extension 4-H Youth Development inspires the next generation of leaders, inventors, entrepreneurs, and problem solvers, transforming the ordinary into the extraordinary. Our adult volunteers are the HEART of the 4-H program. The 4-H youth development program reaches children from ages 5 to 18 years who choose to participate as a member in a community club, a special interest program, in classroom lessons, at camps or through community engagement events. Gila County 4-H provides a young person a variety of projects to choose from to spark their curiosity. The 4-H experience provides opportunities for youth to explore their interests, develop understanding, and work towards mastery of skills. 4-H focuses on eight pathways to support youth development: Agriculture, STEM (Science Technology Engineering Math), Camping, Leadership, Cultural Understanding, Civic Engagement, Healthy Living, and Community Service.

Gila County 4-H Programs

The University of Arizona Cooperative Extension 4-H team includes Renee Carstens (Assistant Agent), Jon Hatch (Program Coordinator, Sr.), Ben Downer (Program Coordinator), and Thuy Bishop (Program Coordinator). In 2021 4-H programming included the following.

- Club Memberships—Gila County 4-H Enrolled 183 youth members and 27 adult volunteers.
- Ag Daze is an agriculture exploration program offered to 4th and 5th graders throughout Gila County. In the fall of 2021, Introduction to agricultural classes resumed. 150 students and 5 teachers received classroom lessons.
- Tech Changemakers – The 4-H Tech Changemakers program empowers young people to close the digital divide and provides opportunities for all people in their communities by providing the education and tools youth need to teach digital skills to adults in their communities. Hadley DalMolin and Joseph Day trained to teach various “tech lessons” to adults, then demonstrated their skills as they taught adults tech lessons in Gila County.
- Gila County Fair Livestock show and auction 4-H and FFA youth participation increased in 2021 at the auction, selling seventy-two lots for total earnings of $323,700 (including add-ons). Members in non-livestock projects also shared their 4-H experience through entries displayed in the exhibit hall. Special thanks go out to the Gila County Fair Board for their long hours and dedication for the opportunities they provide to our youth.
- Payson Unified School District and Payson Community Kids established a partnership with the 4-H UACE team to offer afterschool and in classroom mentor and learning opportunities. 121 youth and 9 adult volunteers participated. The “Exploring 4-H” program is intended to assist youth with finding their “spark”, which motivated and engaged learning in areas of youth interest. Lessons covered agriculture, career exploration, STEM, healthy living, and civic engagement.
4-H Youth Development Programs Continued…

Arizona 4-H Programs

- AZ 4-H Summit is a youth conference focused on academic experience, career exploration, and community engagement. Gila County youth explored areas of career interest and how to take the next steps to creating a future around that passion.

- Gila County youth represented Arizona at the North American International Livestock Exposition (NAILE). Robert Day, Jesse Mata, John Crosby, Cali Dalton traveled to Louisville, KY to participate in the National 4-H Livestock Skill-a-thon Contest.

- Gila County youth attended JOLT camp. JOLT is an Arizona Teen Leadership Camp, designed by teens for teens. At JOLT Arizona teens learn how to empower personal leadership, foster creativity, and encourage positive social change in their own community by upholding 4-H traditions of making the best better.

* Gila County youth, Robert “Joseph” Day was the 2021-2022 AZ State 4-H STEM Ambassador. His role was to advocate and support STEM programming around the state of Arizona

Gila 4-H Facebook sites:

Southern Gila County 4-H
https://www.facebook.com/GilaCounty4H/

Northern Gila County 4-H Community Club
https://www.facebook.com/Northern-Gila-County-4-H-Community-Club-225417271356536/

Central Gila County 4-H
https://www.facebook.com/Central-Gila-County-4H-Community-Club-271221323767577

Gila County youth attend Leadership camp in July at the 4-H campsite on Mingus Mountain.
Gila County 4-H Youth Development

1. Implement strategies to achieve AZ statewide goal to engage 20,000 True Leaders by 2025 by increasing 4-H youth membership to reach 1,300 youth through club and educational programs.  Date: October 2022

2. Increase adult volunteers (project leaders) by 20% from 27 to 32 certified 4-H leaders. Date: October 2022

3. Coordinate Agriculture DAZE Program. Teach Introduction to Arizona Agriculture at Gila County Schools.  Target Date: Fall 2022 through April 2023

4. Advisor to Gila County Fair Livestock Committee.  Target Date: September 2022

5. PI for Arizona 4-H Mentoring Program (4-H NMP11 and NMP12) Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention/ National 4-H Council. “Exploring 4-H” mentor program Target Date: April 2023

6. Create opportunities for inclusion to reach under-served youth.  Date: December 2022

7. Implement Mobile Spacemaker providing hands-on technology skills for the youth in Gila County.

8. Explore partnerships to increase meeting locations for 4-H and other UACE programming. Date: December 2022

9. Supervisor for Southern Gila County 4-H Leaders Council award from United Funds of Globe-Miami, BHP donation for mobile makerspace, and University of Arizona Cooperative Extension Capital Investment Funds.  Date: December 2022

10. Collaborate with ANLS (Arizona National Livestock Show) staff to offer Skill-a-thon competition. Compile materials, design assessment for each category, assisted with set up, scoring and organization for livestock knowledge -based competition. Date: December 2023

State Level Youth Development

1. Assist at AZ Summit. Expanding pre-college experience and career exploration to middle school and high school youth. Target Date: June 2022

2. Assist with JOLT Youth Leadership Camp. Target Date: July 2022

3. Coordinator 4-H State Dog Event.  Target Date: October 2022

4. Co-PI for Next Steps for Leadership grant. Lead for Leadership and Problem-Solving committee. Target Date: December 2025

Membership and Service

- Member of AAE4-HA (Arizona Association of Extension 4-H Agents) – President
- Member of NAE4-HYDP (National Association of Extension 4-H Youth Development Professionals).
- Advisor to Gila County Fair Livestock Committee.

4-H youth and families filling sandbags to help prevent flooding after the Telegraph and Mescal fires.
## 2021 Grants and Donations Awarded or Continuing

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<tr>
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<th>Amount</th>
<th>Purpose</th>
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<tr>
<td>Tractor Supply Company</td>
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<td>Southern &amp; Northern Gila County Clover Campaign</td>
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<td>Valley of the Sun Freeport United Way</td>
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<td>Amazon Smiles</td>
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<td>National Mentor Program (NMP11)</td>
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<td>“Explore 4-H” mentor opportunities to support academic success and youth development</td>
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<td>National Mentor Program (NMP12)</td>
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<td>Memorial Living Trust</td>
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<td>Arizona 4-H Youth Foundation</td>
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<td>Northern Gila County Curriculum Kits</td>
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<td>Tonto Natural Resource Conservation District</td>
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<td>Reading the Range Technical Assistance</td>
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<td>United States Forest Service</td>
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<td>National Institute of Food and Agriculture</td>
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<td>Mexico State University</td>
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<td>Federally Recognized Tribal Extension Programs (FRTEP)</td>
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<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
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These values do not represent office space and utilities provided by Gila County and the San Carlos Apache Tribe.

1. State funds from state appropriations to University of Arizona College of Agriculture.
2. Federal funds from US Department of Agriculture for Cooperative Extension programs.
3. Grants are listed on the proceeding pages.
4. USDA funds provided specifically to support Extension Agent for the San Carlos Apache Reservation.
This partnership has supported the efforts of faculty to request and receive well over $400,000 in outside funds, most of which pay the salaries of local people (13.18 FTE) and support local businesses in Gila County. With other grant opportunities pending, it may well be that this figure will continue to climb. The travel and operations dollars provided by Gila County are absolutely essential to the overall success of Cooperative Extension, including its delivery of programs throughout the County and the leveraging of funding from multiple sources. The Gila County Cooperative Extension faculty and staff are grateful to the Board of Supervisors and to the people of Gila County for their continuing support.

https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/gilacountyarizona
San Carlos Highlights—Livestock Workshop, Solar Activities, Gardening, Archery

Payson Gardens
4-H youth were involved in Thanking Firefighters

“Each spent time creating unique posters, to say thank you to fire crews battling the flames, and even baked several dozen cookies to deliver to men and women working on the front lines.”
Cooperative Extension and 4-H youth worked alongside Gila County partners with preparing sandbags during the flooding after the fires. 50,000 to 60,000 sandbags were distributed.
2021 Gila County Wildfire Season

Between June 4th and June 24th, Gila County had six wildfire incidents, totaling 296,730 acres burned. Many in Gila County had to evacuate, roads were closed, and towns shut down.

Due to the damage from the fires, there are 6,962 properties in Gila County that have greater than a 26% chance of being severely affected by flooding over the next 30 years. This represents 21% of all properties in the county.

https://floodfactor.com/community/gila-county-arizona