



What's Happening - News

GREENLEE COUNTY, COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

Fall 2022

UACE Community Needs Assessment Survey

UACE Needs Assessment Survey

University of Arizona Cooperative Extension (UACE) links the university with Arizona residents. UACE has offices in every county and on some tribal lands. We are part of a nationwide network of scientists and educators who work with communities to solve problems using scientific and local knowledge

UACE wants to hear what your priorities are for your community.

By completing this 15-minute survey, you will be helping us make important choices about how to best continue serving the community through programs and partnerships. The survey will be open until Monday, October 31st.



<https://bit.ly/uace2022>

Scan the QR code to the right or visit the link: <https://bit.ly/uace2022>

Nutrition Education, SNAP-Ed

Britta Schnebly, Program Coordinator

The Duncan Public Library KIDZ Cooking Club series during the 2022 summer was a success! The format changed from one day per week for 5 weeks to 2 or 3 day camps. Participants aged 6-8 attended 2 successive days and participants aged 9-12 attended for three successive days. The change in format addressed retention rates in both attendance and skills learned.



Making Eggplant-Potato Curry, Duncan Public Library

Previously, attendance dropped off toward the final weeks due to anything from family vacation schedules to youth involvement in other programs (sports camps or otherwise) in the community to forgetting about the day/time of the class. In addition to low attendance in latter weeks, many of the skills or information the participants learned diminished due to week-long intervals between each class.

The new day camp format allowed for increased retention in both attendance and skills acquired. Each session consisted of the same skills, recipes and demos, with each successive day incorporating what had been learned the day before. Since each session for each age group contained the same information, the day camp format let families choose which session best fit their summer plans. As a bonus, the new format brought in youth that had never attended any cooking classes before, or participated much in any other library programming.

In April/May 2022, all the students (K-5) at Duncan Schools had the opportunity to transplant various vegetables and plants into the school gardens to grow throughout the summer in preparation for a back-to-school harvest. In September 2022, the 5th grade students harvested Swiss chard, cleaned it, and prepared it into a soup. This allowed the students to experience and see the entire growing cycle of Swiss chard, from planting it as a seed to preparing it as a food.

Last year's Kindergarten class planted peanut seeds in starter pots and transplanted the seedlings into the school gardens in May 2022. The peanut plants grew throughout the summer and when the students returned as 1st graders this year, we harvested the peanuts in September. This was another opportunity Duncan school students had to observe the entire growth cycle of a plant from seed to harvest. The peanuts are currently hanging up drying, getting ready to be roasted and given to the 1st grade students to take home. To make this peanut planting activity an annual event, some of the peanut

seeds will be saved and used for this year's Kindergarten class to plant for harvest in September 2023. Then seeds from that harvest will be planted for 2024, creating a continuing cycle of seed-saving, planting, and harvesting through the years for the Kindergarten class.



Transplanted Peanut Seedlings
Duncan Elementary School
May 25, 2022



Peanut Garden Patch
Duncan Elementary School
September 12, 2022



Peanut Harvest
Duncan Elementary School
September 13, 2022



Peanut Harvest
Duncan Elementary School
September 13, 2022

STEM Education

Kim Johnson, Instructional Specialist, STEM

An entire quarter of the school year is nearly done! In Morenci we are working through earth science topics like the structure of the earth, the rock cycle, earth's systems, and the water cycle.

Greenlee County 4-H's STEM Ambassador, a senior Mighty Mountain 4-H member, visited two of Morenci's 4th grade classes to conduct special experiments from a state-level project called 4-H in Space: Mission Command Project. One class grew microbes from swabs they took around their classroom and documented their findings. Another class grew seeds under different conditions to discover which conditions were best. These students also watched a presentation from the STEM Ambassador about his trip to Florida for the space project. This project was open to any 4-H member in the state who applied and was accepted.

Look forward to some fun fall STEM activities at our local Greenlee County Libraries.

The state 4-H program offers STEM programs open to all 4-H'ers through STEM YOUiversity. These programs include opportunities to build underwater robots, go to space camp in Florida, build a working scale model greenhouse, and be an ambassador in your county or the state for 4-H STEM. If you know a youth who loves STEM and might enjoy these projects, please contact me at krobbjohnson8@arizona.edu.

Horticulture Programs

Bill Cook, Program Coordinator

It's been a banner year for pumpkins! A big thank you to our volunteers who worked to make it happen

The Seed Library is undergoing some changes for the better. Community members are donating seeds at the libraries, 4-H has offered community service cleaning seeds and a group of eight joined in a seed party to process a large supply of seeds, currently drying in the office. Future seed parties will be scheduled to package seed for distribution in the two libraries, Duncan Public Library and Clifton Public Library.

Local home school students meet, here at the office, the second Friday each month, from 9 am - noon, for gardening education that is relevant to the season.

Horticulture classes are presented the second Saturday each month. A wide variety of garden and landscape subjects are addressed. For more information, contact Bill Cook, wrc@email.arizona.edu.



Volunteers helping get the pumpkin patch ready for planting.



Home School Students planting pumpkins.



Home School students learning dry seed saving.



Wet seed saving for Greenlee County seed libraries.

Links to connect with UACE Greenlee programs -

<https://extension.arizona.edu/greenlee>

<https://facebook.com/greenleeextension>

<https://facebook.com/GreenleeCounty4H>

<https://www.youtube.com>

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