



THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA

Cooperative Extension

Yuma County



Yuma County Report 2019



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OF ARIZONA

From the Director

It has been an exciting and productive year for Yuma County Cooperative Extension! I have been the Director for nearly two years now. The first year was largely spent learning all the University's policies and procedures and how the programs in Yuma County are administered. I was extremely lucky to have a fantastic group of employees to help me learn the ropes. This past year we have been fortunate to be able to expand our capacity to serve the people of Yuma County. Two things I strive to do each and every day is learn something new and do the best I can to support the people of Yuma County.

We have essentially added four positions (FTEs) to improve our capacity to serve the needs of Yuma County. We hired a new plant pathologist (Dr. Bindu Poudel) to address the needs associated with plant diseases and an agriculture agent (Robert Masson) to address the needs of the local agriculture industry. Barry Tickes transferred back to Yuma County to address weed management issues and Melissa Wyatt transferred to Yuma to address the needs of local families and individuals. These programs along with existing programs in 4-H, First Smiles, Horticulture, and Ag Education give us the capacity to bring a wide array of University of Arizona resources to support our local communities.

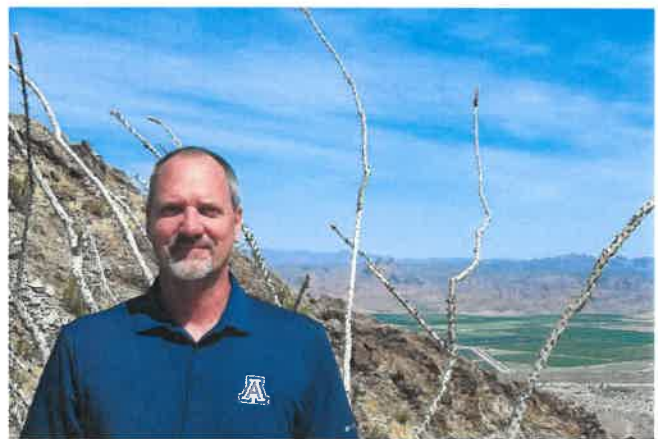
I want to acknowledge and thank our colleagues at the Yuma Agricultural Center. We work closely with the faculty and staff there which increases our collective ability to serve the people of Yuma County and the surrounding area. I also want to thank our great county for providing us with office space and funding to operate. Without their support we would not be able to provide the level of service we do.

ADDITIONAL SUPPORT CAME FROM

- More than 260 volunteers provided over 37,500 hours of service, valued at over \$931,000
- Over \$569,000 of external funding was brought in from grants and donations.

Russ Engel

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OUR MISSION: To engage with people through applied research and education to improve lives, families, communities, the environment, and economies in Arizona and beyond.



4-H Youth Development

Yuma County 4-H is led by Amy Parrott and Marlena Parrott and is supported by over 200 certified volunteer leaders. 4-H is the largest youth development organization in the U.S. and Yuma County 4-H is one of the largest in Arizona. 4-H develops future leaders by teaching life skills including confidence, independence, resilience, and compassion. According to a major study, 4-H youth are 4X more likely to give back to the community, 2X more likely to make healthier choices, and 2X more likely to participate in STEM activities than their peers.

2019 4-H Program Accomplishments

- 792 members enrolled.
- 16 community clubs.
- 210 certified volunteer leaders.
- 35,750 volunteer hours recorded, valued at nearly \$888,000
- 11,125 community service hours recorded.
- \$11,900 of scholarships awarded.
- 4-H Ambassadors presented Ag In The Classroom to approximately 950 students.
- Yuma County 4-H members participated in over 90 local, state, and national events.
- 4-H members met with government officials; Governor Ducey, Senators McSally and Kerr, Representative Dunn, Mayor Nicholls, and the County Board of Supervisors.
- Two 4-H members attended government functions in Washington D.C., ten members attended a meeting of the AZ House of Representatives, and six members attended the 4-H State Summit.
- 4-H members provided over 2,000 entries into the Yuma County Fair.
- The fair auction resulted in over one million dollars of proceeds going back to 4-H members.



Horticulture

Our Horticulture Program is administered by Janine Lane and is supported by a dedicated group of volunteers. The purpose of this program is to provide education and support on how to select, grow, and care for horticulture and landscape plants in the desert southwest. Our experts assist individuals with diagnosing and addressing issues encountered while growing and caring for plants. This program also highlights and provides information and education on the various vegetable crops grown in the area. The program utilizes a greenhouse, two demonstration gardens, workshops, classes, tours, clinics, and a Master Gardener course to provide information and education.

2019 Horticulture Program Accomplishments

- Planted and maintained a 1.5-acre vegetable demonstration garden.
- Oversaw management of the Moody Garden, a landscape demonstration garden.
- Operated and maintained a greenhouse to support the program.
- In partnership with Visit Yuma, provided 15 Field-to-Feast tours of the vegetable demonstration garden that involved 663 individuals.
- Provided 7 tours of the demonstration garden for local schools that involved 316 students.
- Conducted 4 other tours that involved 50 individuals.
- Conducted a 3-day U-Pick event at the demonstration garden that raised \$3,832.
- Provided 5 continuing education classes that benefited 44 individuals.
- Conducted 4 special events at the Moody Garden which involved 276 people.
- Gave 15 presentations at various events that were attended by 375 people.
- Contacted 340 people at various plant clinics.
- Conducted 20 site visits to investigate plant-related problems.
- Answered over 70 phone inquiries.
- Donated 5,835 pounds of vegetables to the local Food Bank and Mission.
- Completed upgrades to the greenhouse and Moody Garden irrigation system.
- Taught a Master Gardener class for 32 people in conjunction with a UofA-Yuma class.
- Over 50 volunteers provided 1,750 hours of time valued at nearly \$43,500.



First Smiles

Our First Smiles program is administered by Megan Pliska with assistance from Vanessa Correa. This program is funded through a First Things First grant. Megan and Vanessa provide free oral health education to parents, caregivers, and youth up to the age of six. They provide instruction on how to brush, floss, and care for teeth. They also provide free dental screenings and fluoride treatments. If oral health issues are observed, they recommend further treatment by a dentist and follow up with the family to encourage treatment.

2019 First Smiles Program Accomplishments

- Provided free oral health education and dental screenings to 2,880 Yuma County youth.
- Provided free Fluoride varnish treatments to 1,767 youth.
- Provided 2,120 books on oral health to Yuma County youth.
- Referrals and follow-up contacts were made for 575 youth to see a dentist for treatment of observed issues.
- Received \$220,000 in grant money from First Things First.



Ag Education

Tracey Waters administers our Ag Education program. This program is designed to teach youth about our local agriculture. This is accomplished by providing creative, hands-on, interactive presentations in local K-12 classrooms. Tracey develops and delivers highly creative, entertaining programs that are in high demand. The popularity and demand for this program has resulted in tremendous growth that is only limited by our capacity to provide programming. Over the course of the year, educational programs were provided on food safety, parts of a plant, cotton production and use, corn production and use, watermelon production, and the role of bees.

2019 Ag Education Program Accomplishments

- Developed creative programs in six different topic areas.
- 232 classroom presentations were given at 23 local schools.
- 6,245 students participated in the program.
- Assisted with a local science, technology, engineering, arts, and mathematics event which was attended by 80 individuals.
- Assisted with seven school tours of our vegetable demonstration garden which was attended by 316 students.



Family, Consumer, and Health Sciences (FCHS)

Our FCHS program is administered by Melissa Wyatt with assistance from Jodi Uebergang and Maddie Waters in 2019. This program is designed to provide support to local families and individuals. Melissa is an area agent responsible for Yuma and La Paz counties. She moved to Yuma in February, 2019 and her primary area of responsibility was changed to Yuma County with 80% of her time being spent serving Yuma County. She completed a needs assessment survey for Yuma County which showed the highest need for programming was in the areas of financial management, healthy living principles, and childhood literacy. She is currently developing and delivering programs to meet those needs. She will continue to assess the needs of Yuma County and adapt her program as necessary.

2019 FCHS Program Accomplishments

- Conducted a community needs survey, getting 153 responses from 6 different zip codes.
- Delivered 14 classes on Financial Management.
- Delivered a 4-part series on Healthy Living.
- Delivered a 6-part series on Small Steps to Health and Wealth.
- Delivered 4 classes on Cooking for Kids.
- Delivered 1 class on Food Preservation.
- Participated in the Yuma Healthy Eating, Active Living (HEAL) Coalition.
- Attended 6 professional meetings and workshops.
- Gave 2 presentations at professional meetings.
- Hosted 1 AmeriCorps employee.



Agriculture

Robert Masson is our new Yuma County Agriculture Agent. Robert started working in October, 2019 and is in the early stages of building his program. The purpose of this program is to identify and help address the most pressing issues and needs of our local agriculture industry. He has completed a needs assessment survey and will build a program to address identified needs. He will be working with colleagues and industry people to address issues in the areas of soil health, food safety, and plant variety screening for hemp production and disease resistance. He will continually monitor the changing needs and adapt his program accordingly.

2019 Agriculture Program Accomplishments

- Conducted a needs assessment survey, getting 156 responses from Yuma County.
- Attended a FSMA food safety training course.
- Gave 12 presentations.
- Attended 12 professional/industry meetings, field days, and workshops.
- Developed and started publishing a newsletter.
- Started conducting field trials on soil health, hemp varieties, and irrigation management.
- Taught a soil science class at AWC.
- Brought in \$12,787 in grants and donations to support the program.



Plant Pathology

Our plant pathology program is administered by Dr. Bindu Poudel with assistance from Martin Porchas and Rebecca Ramirez (<http://extension.arizona.edu/yuma-plant-pathology>). The purpose of this program is to identify issues related to plant diseases in our local agriculture industry and then conduct applied research, maintain and operate a plant disease diagnostic lab, and provide information and education to address identified issues. Program personnel build relationships and work cooperatively with local industry people to conduct field trials and applied research. Plant disease is an ongoing, evolving problem in agriculture and can cost growers millions of dollars if not addressed and managed properly. This program provides information, options, and solutions to address plant disease problems.

2019 Plant Pathology Program Accomplishments

- Analyzed over 700 plant disease samples in the lab.
- Conducted 170 field trials.
- Conducted 70 site visits to diagnose problems.
- Conducted 20 tours of the lab.
- Gave 13 presentations at various events.
- Conducted 2 workshops.
- Started a field trial on growing hemp.
- Participated on 3 advisory committees.
- Volunteers as a reviewer for 7 different journals and organizations.
- Provided service in 10 different communities across AZ, CA, and Mexico.
- Hired 2 full-time employees to assist with the program.
- Trained 6 interns.
- Supervised 2 middle school and 1 high school science fair projects.
- Brought in over \$250,000 in grants and donations to support the program.



Weed Management

Our weed management program is administered by Barry Tickes with assistance from Marco Pena. The purpose of this program is to identify issues related to weed management in our local agriculture industry and then conduct applied research, and provide information and education to address identified issues. Weed management is an ongoing, evolving problem in agriculture and can cost growers millions of dollars if not addressed and managed properly. Barry conducts applied research and provides options and solutions to address weed management.

2019 Weed Management Program Accomplishments

- Conducted 15 applied research trials on crops including; lettuce, cole, alfalfa, wheat, safflower, garlic, tomatoes, onions, and mint.
- Conducted 45 farm visits for evaluation.
- Gave 11 presentations at various workshops and meetings.
- Attended 12 professional and industry meetings.
- Taught an applied weed science course for the University of Arizona.
- Brought in over \$41,000 in grants and donations to support the program.



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Business Administration

Our business administration program is directed by Shannon Avalos with assistance from Julie Pilkington. This dynamic duo keeps our office running smoothly. They take care of our financial and business operations, our human resources needs, office management, and customer service. They answer thousands of phone calls and provide customer service to all our walk-in customers. They deliver outstanding customer service with great attitudes and smiles.

2019 Business Administration Program Accomplishments

- All bills paid and financial transactions completed on time.
- All human resource actions completed efficiently and effectively.
- All customer needs addressed in a timely manner, with a smile.
- All budgets managed effectively.
- All payroll and timekeeping managed effectively.
- All office supplies provided when needed.



Faculty and Staff - Yuma County Cooperative Extension

Below is a listing of the faculty and staff at Yuma County Cooperative Extension. These men and women are the ones who deliver the programs to the residents of Yuma County. Their hard work and dedication have made positive differences in people's lives, communities, the environment, and the economy in Yuma County.



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Faculty and Staff - Continued



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Our Websites:

<https://extension.arizona.edu/yuma>
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By Phone:

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Our Facebook Pages:

<https://www.facebook.com/Yuma-County-4-H>
<https://www.facebook.com/GardeningYuma>
<https://www.facebook.com/MoodyGarden>
<https://www.facebook.com/Yuma-County-Cooperative-Extension>



Yuma County Cooperative Extension

Our Mission: To engage with people through applied research and education to improve lives, families, communities, the environment, and economies in Arizona and beyond.

Our Vision: To be a vital national leader in creating and applying knowledge to help people build thriving, sustainable lives, communities and economies.

As the University of Arizona in Yuma County:

- We empower people to expand their capabilities to improve their lives.
- We are a well-known, effective, and accessible educational resource for all communities.
- We are a trusted partner in communities for leadership education.
- We develop strong, capable leaders in all communities.
- We are recognized experts for developing and disseminating research-based information.

Advisory Board

Jon Dinsmore

Karen Johnson

Brenda Howell

Debbie Townsend

Tim Dunn

Bruce Gwynn

Jeff Johnson

Yuma County Board of Supervisors

Martin Porchas – District 1

Darren Simmons – District 3

Lynne Pancrazi – District 5

Russell McCloud – District 2

Tony Reyes, Chairman – District 4

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, Extension & Economic Development, Division of Agriculture, Life and Veterinary Sciences, and Cooperative Extension, The University of Arizona.

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