



Extension

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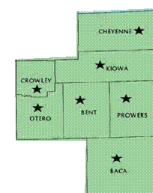
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Quarterly Report



To: Board of County Commissioners

This quarterly report summarizes major educational programming in the third quarter of 2015 from Southeast Area Extension. The mission of CSU Extension is to provide information and education, and encourage the application of research-based knowledge in response to local, state, and national issues affecting individuals, youth, families, agricultural enterprises, and communities of Colorado.

We are grateful for the continued support of the counties. If you have any questions, suggestions or would like more specific information about these or other Extension programs, feel free to meet with any member of our staff.

Welcome Brittany Bowman - New Agent in Kiowa County

Howdy guys, my name is Brittany Bowman, and I am the new 4-H Youth Development/ Agriculture & Natural Resource extension agent for Kiowa County! I am from San Antonio, TX which is one of the largest cities in Texas, so moving to Eads has been a bit of an adjustment, but I am enjoying the change. I went to Texas A&M University in College Station, TX where I graduated with a B.S. in Agricultural Leadership & Development, and an animal science specialty. I was an active FFA member and a 4-H volunteer. I competed on many agricultural teams, and raised livestock for over seven years. I enjoy outdoor activities and traveling. I am very excited to be here, and I cannot wait to see where it leads.

2015 Wheat Crop in Southeast Colorado

For the first time in several years, Southeastern Colorado wheat producers planted into adequate moisture. Rains in August 2014 restored farmers hope after continuous losses from drought. This led to an increase in the wheat acreage planted in 2014. While adequate topsoil moisture provided a better seed bed for farmers to drill into, the subsoil moisture profile was still low.

The weather conditions were the biggest challenge for producers in this area. Although the planting conditions were positive, a successful crop still depends on weather conditions during the entire growing season. The fall months were characterized by wet and warm conditions. Precipitation was slightly above the 30-year normal. October was unusually warmer than it has been in previous years. Precipitation and warm temperatures were beneficial for wheat germination and emergence. Some concerns were expressed regarding warm temperatures leading to advanced growth of early planted wheat and its high water use. November started with frigid weather conditions across Southeastern Colorado. There were some concerns expressed over wheat winterkill. During December and most

Agriculture and Natural Resources



2015 Wheat Crop (continued from pg. 1)

of the winter months, producers remained concerned about wheat conditions, as a consequence of hard freezes, particularly in areas where advanced growth of the crop was observed. The weather patterns with cold temperatures also brought snow that helped insulate and protect the wheat crop from excessive winterkill.

Wheat began breaking dormancy in early March. As warm temperatures and dry conditions prevailed, moisture stress was observed in several locations across Southeastern Colorado. During April, dry conditions persisted and dry pockets in wheat fields became more pronounced where no replenishing moisture events occurred. As dry conditions prevailed, outbreaks of army cutworms, pale western cutworms and false wireworms significantly affected a great percentage of wheat fields. Severity of the insect pressure ranged from minor to severe across Southeastern Colorado.

May was characterized by widespread precipitation events. May 2015 is considered to be the wettest month on record for Southeastern Colorado. Accumulated precipitation ranged from 5.64 inches at Walsh to 9.25 inches at Eads. Also, May was marked by cooler temperatures. The wet and cool conditions were favorable for the development of stripe rust. Damage to wheat from stripe rust ranged from very mild to severe depending on wheat variety.

June started with strong thunderstorms and localized hail associated with several storm systems. The abundance of heat and moisture generally improved wheat conditions. However, persisting stripe rust and other fungal diseases on wheat were still observed where surplus soil moisture and cool temperatures occurred in greater frequency.

Harvesting activities gradually began in the last week of June. In early July, producers made significant progress in harvesting wheat in the midst of scattered precipitation. In Southeastern Colorado, wheat harvest was wrapped by the 3rd week of July.

Yield ranged from 2 bu/ac to 84 bu/ac throughout Southeastern Colorado. Test weight also varied from 54 lb/ac to 62 lb/ac in good fields. Many wheat producers reported higher yields than expected. Yield variability could be attributed to the weather pattern during the growing season, selection of adapted wheat varieties, and pest and disease control at the right time.

Colorado State University Extension is working with 10 wheat producers from the Southeast Area to plant the 2015 - 2016 COFT. This year, test includes four CSU varieties and one variety from Westbred.

- **Avery** - New hard red wheat (HRW) released from CSU in 2015, marketed by Plains-Gold. Medium maturity, average straw strength and test weight. Similar to Byrd with larger kernels, improved quality, and resistance to Greenbug. High dryland yield, drought tolerance similar to Byrd. Avery has wheat curl mite resistance and an intermediate reaction to stripe rust.

- **Byrd** - CSU HRW released in 2011, marketed by PlainsGold. Medium maturity, average straw strength and test weight. High dryland yield, excellent drought tolerance and quality. Moderately susceptible to stripe rust. Carries wheat curl mite resistance.
- **Denali** - CSU HRW released in 2011, marketed by PlainsGold. Medium-late maturity, good straw strength and excellent test weight. Denali is photoperiod sensitive, which can cause late heading in years with abnormally warm early-spring temperatures as in 2012. High dryland yield and average quality. Moderately susceptible to stripe rust and leaf rust.
- **WB-Grainfield** - WestBred HRW released in 2012. Early maturity, average straw strength and test weight. High dryland yield and average quality. Good stripe rust and leaf rust resistance. Poor winter survival in 2014-15 trials.
- **Sunshine** - CSU hard white wheat (HWW) released in 2014, marketed by PlainsGold in the CWRFArdent Mills Ultragrains Premium Program. Hard white wheat with medium maturity, excellent quality, good sprouting tolerance, and average straw strength and test weight. Yield intermediate to Snowmass and Antero.



Southeast Area Range and Livestock

This quarter was a busy time of year for Southeast Area Range and Livestock personnel with county fairs, hay judging at the Colorado State Fair, and the every present - "other duties as assigned." The end of September, staff members attended the America's Grassland Conference hosted by Colorado State University, National Wildlife Federation, and Bird Conservancy of the Rockies. Participants came from across the United States and some from Canada representing agencies, non-governmental agencies, and non-profit organizations. Concurrent breakout sessions were conducted focusing on such topics as: Rangeland conversion, Climate Change and Grasslands, Strategies to conserve grasslands and promote rangeland health, Grasslands wildlife and ecosystems, grazing and grasslands management, Grasslands monitoring, Grasslands and Federal policy, etc.

Discussions were usually lively, with a wide range of philosophies and preferences. To my knowledge, this is the first time the conference has been hosted in Colorado and it was a great experience to hear so many diverse points of view actually coming together to discuss a common topic of concern. Approximately twenty-eight posters were also presented with a wide range of topics from the use of cover crops, grazing management, and wildlife habitat and re-introduction to using indigenous knowledge as a solution to grassland degradation and optimum cow size in grazing operations.

Next quarter will see staff reporting on attending the semi-annual Range Beef Cow Symposium which will be held at Loveland this year.



4-H



Cloverbud Day Camp

A Cloverbud Day Camp was held July 7th, 2015 in Cheyenne Wells. The theme for the camp was "Wild, Wild West". Six Cloverbuds from Cheyenne County, along with three older 4-H members attended the camp. The older 4-H members helped set up and run many of the activities. The morning started off with a variety of ice breaker games followed by a chance to put on western duds (with mustaches of course) for wanted poster pictures. The Cloverbuds then attended workshops where they made sandpaper cactus, sponge painted cow spots, mixed their own trail mix and got to try their hands in a shooting gallery. Following lunch and more games the Cloverbuds went panning for gold and threw snakes into boots. There was also a cow round up and pop the pig activity that were very popular. The last activity was a series of cowboy relay races. The camp wrapped up with root beer floats. All of those who attended commented on how much fun they had and how much they enjoyed an activity just for the Cloverbuds. Planning is already under way for next year's superhero themed camp.

Cheyenne County

"Riding the Rails of Cheyenne County" was the theme of the 2015 Cheyenne County Fair. This year's fair was especially exciting as this was the first year the new livestock pavilion was used to house all the livestock projects. Multiple comments about how great the new pavilion is were made by 4-H members, parents and community members. This year's fair included not only livestock shows, 4-H indoor projects, and open class, but also a peewee livestock show, gymkhana, turtle races, and three widely attended free meals. New additions were a petting zoo, magician shows and the return of the PRCA rodeo.

The fair held July 28th through August 2nd began with the horse show with five participants from Cheyenne County and one from Kiowa County. The following day was the judging of 4-H indoor projects. Seventy-eight 4-H projects were judged, and of those fifty-six qualified for the Colorado State Fair. Following the indoor project judging an auction of both food project items and cakes from the cake decorating projects were held. Thirty-eight items were sold.

There were thirty-three 4-H members and seven FFA members that exhibited livestock at the Cheyenne County Fair. Fifty-four animals were sold through the junior livestock auction. Plans are all ready in the works for the 2016 Cheyenne County Fair!

Kiowa County Fair

"Homegrown, Handmade, Farm & Ranch Raised" was the theme for the 2015 Kiowa County Fair. This year's fair started on September 9th with the 4-H and FFA poultry, rabbit, and goat show. The next day picked right up with the swine, beef, and the sheep show, followed by showmanship. Fair wrapped up on September 13th with a parade, an open fun day full of activities, and of course horse races and a rodeo. There were 30 4-H members and 10 FFA members that exhibited livestock at the Kiowa County Fair. Sixty-three animals were sold through the junior livestock premium sale for a total of \$55,700.

On August 20th, the indoor projects were judged. On this day forty-nine projects were exhibited. One of the many exciting activities of the day included a food auction, where seventeen items were sold for a total of \$985. From the forty-nine projects exhibited on this day, forty-seven of them qualified for the Colorado State Fair. Out of these projects taken to state fair thirty two placed in the top ten, and we had eight grand and reserves. We even had a couple overall grand and reserves, earning one student a trip to Atlanta.

This is a great representation of all the hard work and dedication put in by our members, volunteers, supporters, and our community members.

Bent County Fair

Over 100 Bent county 4-H and FFA members had projects evaluated at the Bent County Fair. While the fair is a competitive event, its primary focus is education as all members learn how to improve their exhibit during the judging process. Judging focuses on teaching the members, as well as evaluating their exhibit. Activities at the fair also teach leadership and citizenship. Prior to the fair, 4-H and FFA members spent an evening sprucing up the fair grounds to help show off Bent County at its best. Several 4-H members learned leadership skills by assisting as junior superintendents. A highlight this year were the youth announcers at many events. Exhibitors helped other exhibitors with their project, even though they would compete against them later with the same project, then cheered for each other as placings were announced.

Bent County sent twenty-two general and consumer science projects to the Colorado State Fair. Exhibits must place first in their class at the county fair to be eligible to compete at state fair. Fourteen of those exhibits placed in the top ten in their class at state fair! One member won Grand Champion (the best of many classes placed together) with her project, Dominique Cardinelli. Several Bent County youth exhibited livestock at the state fair, and placed very well. Two placed high enough in market livestock classes to sell in the Junior Livestock sale.

Crowley County Days

Crowley County Days is featured the third week of July. The fair board hosted many different events during the week in which individuals could participate or observe. 4-H members exhibited 19 general projects. Those members had the opportunity to share their projects with the judges. Of these projects 4 members exhibited at the Colorado State Fair.

Several members participated at the county shoot. Members demonstrated their skills with .22 rifle, shotgun and archery. Six members then went on to compete at the state shoot that was held in conjunction with the state fair.

4-H and FFA members from Crowley and Otero County can exhibit animal projects during Crowley County Days. Eight members showed market beef, there were also 3 breeding beef projects and 4 bucket calf projects. Dairy included 1 dairy cattle and 5 dairy goats. Fourteen members showed market goat and 6 breeding goat projects. Six members showed market sheep and 4 breeding sheep projects were exhibited. Swine had the largest numbers, 12

4-H



4-H



Crowley County Days (continued from pg. 5)

market swine and 3 breeding swine projects were featured. Other project numbers included 6 dog, 6 horse, 2 chicken, 1 turkey and 5 rabbits. Five members also exhibited animals at the state fair, these were poultry and rabbit projects. Members placed very well with their projects.

To round out the week Wild Things 4-H Club had a craft sale and sold truck raffle tickets at the car show. Thank you to Crowley County Jr. Show Committee, parents, leaders and other volunteers that helped to make Crowley County Days a success.

Arkansas Valley Fair

"It's a Fair, It's A Festival, It's a Fiesta" was the theme of the 138th Arkansas Valley Fair and a good time was had by all that attended. Many different animal shows went on during the week but there was a little down time for members to enjoy themselves. The Wild Things 4-H Club in Crowley County sponsored a variety of activities, such as watermelon and pie eating contests, dress your animal, water tank dunking, and many others. Thanks to leaders, parents and members for adding a little fun.

The county qualifying shoot for members enrolled in shooting sports was held in July. At that time 13 members qualified to attend the state competition. Those members participated in .22 rifle, shotgun and archery. Earlier in August the dog show was held, 15 members from Otero and Crowley County participated, some of them with several dogs. Nine members qualified and went on to compete at the state fair.

On August 15 ninety-two 4-H members had their general projects interview judged. Interview judging gives the member an opportunity to develop public speaking skills while discussing their exhibit and what they learned while completing the project. Reviewing their record book that accompanies the exhibit also develops life skills. Thirty-nine members qualified for the Colorado State Fair, those 39 members exhibited 66 projects. Many of the projects received grand and reserve champion and others placed within the top ten.

August 17-21 featured the horse show and the market and breeding animal shows and concluded with the fat stock sale. The shows are open to 4-H and FFA members from Crowley and Otero County. The horse show had 20 members competing in the various classes, 3 members went on to compete at the state horse show. Eight members showed 12 market beef and 4 members participated in the breeding beef project. Thirty-six members exhibited 65 market goats, 9 members participated in breeding goat and 6 members exhibited dairy goats. Seventeen members exhibited 38 market sheep and 5 members participated in the breeding sheep project. Twenty-eight members exhibited 50 market swine and 5 members participated in the breeding swine project. Small animals are also a big part of the fair. This year 10 members exhibited a variety of poultry and waterfowl and 13 members exhibit commercial and fancy rabbits. Twelve members went on to participate at the state fair with all of them placing within their classes. The fat stock and food sale saw great support from businesses and private individuals. The final tally was \$151,182.

Congratulations to all the 4-H and FFA members for their accomplishments. A thank you goes out to the Arkansas Valley Junior Show committee, parents, leaders and FFA advisors that make the fair successful.

AmeriCorps & CSU

AmeriCorps and Colorado State University Extension have partnered to deliver S.T.E.M. afterschool programming across the state. The Southeast Area is pleased to announce that we have two part time members serving in our area based in Otero and Prowers Counties. Chelsea Lewis, Otero, and Brianna Crump, Prowers, are 4-H alumni and are currently attending Otero Junior College and Lamar Community College, both members are looking to complete their studies this year and move to a four year bachelor's degree program. They are currently tasked with delivering after school programming to local schools and the Hope Center. Lewis attended extensive training in August for Extension and AmeriCorps members and supervisors. Crump was selected following the training and has been actively working with the Hope Center. Lewis is currently working through the weather curriculum and Crump is working on designing a Dare to Be You Camp workshop. These two members will serve the SEA through July 2016. We look forward to the many contacts and lessons they will deliver.

Agents Host Meeting

Kaye Kasza and Jennifer Wells hosted the Colorado Extension Association of Family Consumer Science agents in September. Eleven members and three retirees attended the two day event. Attendees had the opportunity to learn about current and historical housing opportunities in southeast Colorado. They toured Sprouts Tiny Homes north of La Junta, Bent's Old Fort and Fort Lyon Supportive Residential Community outside of Las Animas. One full day was spent visiting local farms to learn about on-farm food safety, keeping the family on the farm and horticulture research being conducted at the CSU Research Center.

The Goal Ranch north of La Junta housed those in attendance and provided a majority of the meals. The preparation of the food allowed students in attendance experience in food preparation and serving. Wells worked with the Ranch culinary arts instructor to feature and purchase local foods for the meals. Agents also learned about the opportunities being offered on the ranch for students.

Most of the agents in attendance had not visited southeast Colorado. They all left with an appreciation of our culture, and economic and community development efforts.



Family & Consumer Science





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Summer is fair season. The report highlights the fairs in the Southeast Area. The 4-H and FFA members work hard to bring premier exhibits to be displayed at the local fair. A first year 4-H member has much to learn and the local fair allows them to think about what they will do next year. They may have learned a new trick for displaying their animal for the judge or learned the best way to package their cookies so that they get them to the judge before the cookies hit the floor. All of us who have been in 4-H remember those first few years and the mishaps that happened. Best wishes to all members this upcoming year.

The Southeast area is currently conducting a search for the Crowley/Otero 4-H Youth Development position. Wilma Trujillo, area agronomist, resigned her position effective the end of October. She will continue to work for CSU Extension in Morgan and Logan Counties. The agronomist position will be announced soon.

As always, call your local agent or myself if there are issues in your community that you feel extension should be involved in or can offer assistance.

Jennifer Wells
Southeast Area Director



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