Highlights & Accomplishments

October 2012-October 2013

Celebrating 101 years of Extension in Colorado...
1 year of Extension in Clear Creek County!
CSU Extension Mission

Extension is the outreach arm of Colorado State University, providing the extensive knowledge, research capabilities, and resources of this premier land-grant university to Coloradans from all walks of life. Extension is dedicated to serving current and future needs of Coloradans by providing educational information and programs that safeguard health, increase livelihood, and enhance well-being.

Since 1912, when Congress authorized Extension in each state, we’ve been in the education/information business. The purpose of the Extension system is to provide a link between the states universities and their citizens. We make available to people the research, information and expertise provided by our country’s universities, and help them use the information to solve problems and improve their quality of life. In this age of sound bites, coupons and advertisements wherever you turn, Extension offers a rare commodity indeed—information you can trust. Our techniques and data are all research-based, put together by specialists, experts and researchers with no products to sell or agendas to push. Our primary concern is the accuracy of the information and the welfare of the citizens of Colorado.

CCC Extension Staff:

Christine M. Crouse
Director & Agent
(pictured above)

Kathy Fiebig
Program Assistant

Our vision:
To develop and deliver cooperative, relevant and research-based programming to the Clear Creek County community for our priority topic areas:
- High Altitude Horticulture
- Consumer Energy (Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency)
- 4-H Youth Development

4-H Pledge: I pledge my HEAD to clearer thinking, my HEART to greater loyalty, my HANDS to larger service, and my HEALTH to better living for my club, my community, my country, my world.
Motto: “To make the Best Better.”
ATTENDED
- Outdoors Skill Training Conference (June 2013)
- Outdoor Skills Day (August 2013)
- Volunteer Expo @ CCC High School (Aug. 2013)
- National Western Stock Show classroom/field trip training/with JeffCO Extension (Jan. 2013)
- JeffCo 4-H Leader Training (Feb. 2013)
- JeffCo 4-H Shooting Sports Expo @ Thyne Ranch (Fall 2012)
- Gilpin CO CSUE 4-H Open House & Recruitment meeting (Fall 2012 & Fall 2013)

HELD
- Information Meeting for 4-H Adult and Teen leaders to establish community club
- Explore 4-H! workshops offered (attendance):
  - Cake Decorating: May & August 2013 (29)
  - Archery: June 2013 (60)
  - Outdoor Adventure Hike: August 2013 (4)
  - Robotics: June & July 2013 (22)
- Clear Creek Watershed Festival Sept. 2013 (700)
- Join 4-H! Open House (November 2013)

ONGOING PROJECTS/RESEARCH
- STEM programs & funding
- CO 4-H Foundation Truck Raffle (40% of ticket sales return to CCC)
- Working with High School staff to set up Robotics 4-H Club; Library District Poultry Project; Shooting Sports
- In discussions with CCMRD staff, Gilpin and Denver CO 4-H programs regarding summer outdoor adventure & camp options
- Office display of available programming
- Junior 4-H Leader Program
- Creative Cooks Contest
- 4-H Forest Mgt. Training & Seminar with schools, Forest Service, and Fire Authority

“4-H Youth Development

I stumbled upon the Clear Creek Watershed Festival after my son's soccer game and loved it. I loved how each booth was informational (and had a fun aspect for kids) AND especially environmental. You didn't feel pressure to buy anything or get pressure. That was the best part. The passport idea - Brilliant. I will definitely go again. I learned about water efficiency, mining safety, fishing, renewable energy, flood impact, organic gardening...awesome.”

Comment from Ava, age eight, re: 4-H Cake Decorating: “It was really fun! Thanks!!!!” and Katie, age 12: “This was AWESOME!!”.

Requests for other topics from youth attending initial 4-H workshops: animation, rocketry, take cool adventures, architecture, art class, Legos, cooking, and pottery.
Renewable Energy
Energy Efficiency

Met with numerous community organizations

SPONSORED
Insulation giveaway w/Gilpin County (Feb. 2013)
Bottom Line—Energy Workshop (Nov. 2013)
Film screening @ United Center: “Switch”
(November 2013)

DIY Home Energy Audit Kit now available to CCC Residents

ATTENDED
Solar Energy Workshop @ NREL (may 2013)
DRCOG Solar Friendly Community/
Sustainability Conference
CSU Extension National Energy Summit (April 2013)

General Administration

Ongoing budget tracking
Ongoing reporting/work sessions w/County Commissioners, County Department Heads, School Board & CCMRD Board
Formed CCC Extension Advisory Committee
Continued involvement with Regional Advisory Committee (hosted June meeting)
Hired part time Program Assistant (August 2013)
Moved and reorganized office space. Numerous print materials now available to the public
Ongoing public contacts in all focus areas through phone calls, emails, and walk-ins
Developed distribution and contact lists
Submitted newspaper articles
Established quarterly electronic newsletter
Link all events to County calendar

Insulating a water heater with fiberglass can reduce heat loss and save 4% - 9% on a water heating bill. There are many easy and inexpensive ways to conserve energy in your home and keep money in your pocket.
High Altitude Horticulture

Three Master Gardener’s graduated in April 2013:
- Volunteer Hours: over 150 to date
- Public contacts: over 250 and still counting

Community presentations:
- Idaho Springs Library
- Columbine Garden Club
- Scraps-to-Soil
- Garden Club of Clear Creek County
- Evergreen Garden Club

Information Booth @ IS Farmer’s market
Creating library of PowerPoint presentations on topics relevant to CCC

Published articles in Courant & Firestarter
Contributing to Mt. Gardening Blog w/Gilpin CO
Contributing to Mt. Vegetable Gardening Website w/Gilpin CO

Attended CCMRD Fall Fest (October 2013)
Consulted with Easter Seals Camp: Sensory Garden

- Solicited donation of laptop for PowerPoint series
- Applied for grant to develop demonstration gardens (pending/passed first round & asked to submit design)
- Attended Regional Compost Initiative Meeting
- Soil sample/Water Test kits available to CCC residents
- Researching composting options, high altitude seed mixes, and overall sustainability options
- Will attend Pumpkin Smash (November 2013)

CSU Administration

Ongoing reporting

Completed CO Master Gardening Training

Attended training session/conferences/meetings:
- Various horticultural classes
- CSU Extension Annual Forum (Nov. 2012)
- CSU Extension County Director Conference (Jan. 2013)
- CSU new employee orientation (Feb. 2013)
- 4-H Agents Winter Muster (Feb. 2013)
- CSU Extension Regional Directors Meeting 2013 (Dec. 2012, April, July & October 2013)
- Coordinated County meeting with Extension Director, Dr. Lou Swanson with Commissioners & Stakeholders (July 2013)
- CSU Extension Search Committee Chair (Training October 2013)

Participate in ongoing Workgroups:
- 4-H
- Horticulture
- Consumer Energy

Partnered in “Engaging Teens as 4-H Leaders “grant opportunity
Building partnerships and community throughout Clear Creek County.

STAKEHOLDERS:

Clear Creek County Government: Board of County Commissioners, Department Heads, and other staff

Municipal leaders from Silver Plume, Georgetown, Empire, Downieville/Dumont/Lawson, and Idaho Springs

Clear Creek Economic Development Corporation
Clear Creek School District RE-1 staff and administration
Georgetown Community School
Elks Club
Lions Club
Clear Creek Metropolitan Recreation District
Clear Creek Watershed Foundation
Loveland Ski Area
Rocky Mountain Village
Emergency Medical Services
Clear Creek Fire Authority
Charlie’s Place
Scraps-to-Soil
Columbine Garden Club
Garden Club of Clear Creek County
Shadows Ranch
Evergreen Disposal Systems
Timberline Disposal
Evergreen Alliance for Sustainability
City of Golden Sustainability
South Platte Basin Roundtable
MolsonCoors Brewery
Jefferson Conservation District
South Platte Forum
InterBasin Compact Committee
Cherry Creek Stewardship Partners

The Clear Creek County Extension Office is located in the Clear Creek County Annex.

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On a yearly basis, more than 8,000 volunteers reach out to people throughout Colorado with Extension programs. Because of these volunteer efforts in diverse Extension programs, more people learn to make better choices for their families, homes, and businesses. These volunteer hours add up to over $18 million annually in donated time.