



# January – April Update

2024 is off to a great start!

The first few months of 2024 were packed with workshops, professional trainings and program development. Winter is a time for staff to complete trainings like the Colorado Master Gardener program, to attend professional meetings (Society for Range Management, County Area Director annual meeting and State 4-H specialist annual meeting) as well as provide leadership opportunities throughout the state for youth.

We're also pleased to continue training our admin assistant, Sheri Pavelich, on the many varied topics that our office covers and she was able to attend the CSU Extension administrative assistant training in April.

We've planted many seeds for this year and are looking forward to a great summer.

## 4-H

Our 4-H year is starting out with many successes! We have collaborated with community members to host different 4-H "taster" classes. From these "taster" classes, our enrollment continues to grow. We also had 4-H 101 & 201 for new families to help them feel successful in their first year of 4-H.

## Horticulture

Horticulture is getting ready for the summer season and has started our Master Gardener Office Hours on Tuesdays from 10am - 1pm. We will be having our spring Master Gardener Gathering on May 8. We hosted two Native Plant walks with Marion Rohman from Canyon of the Ancients. We've been busy in the orchard, which is shaping up for another good year.

## Agriculture

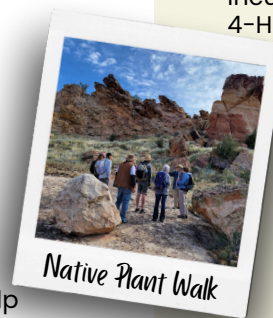
Our ag program has been busy collaborating with Dolores County Extension and Mancos/High Desert Conservation Districts on irrigation workshops and land management workshop series. WSARE grant funding was used to host a series of very well attended livestock care workshops.

Emily continues to work with Ute Mountain Ute on rangeland restoration research and is exploring scaling up projects. Workshops that are currently planned for the summer are botany, grass ID and rangeland grazing management.

## Program Highlights

### 4-H Youth Development

- January:** Crochet Class  
Treasurer & Secretary Training  
Leadership Development Conference
- February:** 4-H 101 for New Families  
Parli Pro Trailmix
- March:** Cookie Decorating Class  
County Council Officer Training
- April:** San Juan Basin Leadership Camp  
Mandatory Livestock Meeting w/ Fair Board  
Incubator Workshop  
4-H Youth Fest



## Agriculture

- January:** Four Corners Master Irrigator
- February:** Livestock Parturition  
Livestock Nutrition  
General Livestock Care  
SW Wholesale Agricultural Gathering  
F.E.W.E.R. Rural suicide prevention  
Livestock and Forage Grower Update
- March:** Beef Quality Assurance Training
- April:** Pasture and Grazing Management Workshop

## Horticulture

- CO Master Gardener** - 3 new apprentices
- Master Gardener Office Hours** -  
Tuesdays 10am-1pm, April 15- Sept 17
- Native Plant Walks**- Lower Sand Canyon  
and Upper Sand Canyon

### Meet our staff:

- Emily Lockard, Director and Ag Specialist
- Tierney Wilson, 4-H Youth Development Specialist
- Todd Gunter, Program Assistant
- Sheri Pavelich, Administrative Assistant





## May - August Update

### A successful and fun County Fair

Summer sure goes by quickly when it's full of programming! We've been busy making sure 4-H members are ready for fair and ensuring our community has tools for a successful growing season.

#### 4-H

In the past few months, the 4-H Program was busy preparing for County Fair along with State Fair. We had 46 projects go to State Fair with four of those projects receiving Reserve Grand Champion. Along with fair preparations, we also had two programs in July. We had the first junior district camp for members between the ages of 8-10 with 13 members from Montezuma County attend. In July we hosted the Southwest Colorado Ag Tour for 4-H youth that our intern Willa helped develop. We toured Los Miramontes Lavender Farm, Diamond D Processing, and Yellow Jacket Livestock Auction. A huge thank you to our excellent summer intern Willa Rice for all the work she did for us this summer.

#### Agriculture

Ag site visits this summer have served new landowners and seasoned farmers. From pest issues, weed control and grazing management partnering with the Moncos/High Desert Conservation District has led to many collaborative workshops. We held an Ag irrigation management workshop this summer which wraps up the \$26,600 grant from LOR for irrigation programming. Thank you to the LOR Foundation for making this great programming possible.

#### Horticulture

Our horticulture program hosted weekly Master Gardener Help Desk and a monthly Master Gardener booth at the Cortez Farmers Market. One of our newest and most energetic Master Gardeners Connie Clementson has a new project with the Cortez Library which is launched in August. The orchard was hit by a late spring frost so there will be limited apples available this fall but we continue to partner with Dolores County Extension to make sure the orchard looks it's best for the you pick in September.

## Program Highlights

### 4-H Youth Development

**May:** Stuff the Tin for Techers Service Project, CSU Vet Science Camp, Mancos Barnyard with Montezuma Farm to School, and Tag In

**June:** KCA Summer Camp and State Conference

**July:** Junior Member Camp, 4-H Horse Show, Southwest Colorado Ag Tours, and County Fair

**August:** County Fair, Regional Dog Show, and State Fair



### Agriculture

**May:** Weed Management Workshop

**June:** Grass Identification Workshop

**July:** Summer Ag Irrigation Workshop

**August:** Research Center Field Day

### Horticulture

**April-Sept:** Master Gardener Office Hours Tuesdays 10am-1pm

**2nd Sat of each month:** Master Gardeners at Cortez Farmers Market

**August:** Master Gardener launched new volunteer project at the Cortez Library



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## September – December Update

Celebrating the close of a strong year

### 4-H

Another year down, many more to go! We finished up the 2024 year with our Annual Achievement Night where members were celebrated for their achievements in 4-H. We recognized our Outstanding Members in 4-H (Tatum Otteson, Eli Jarmon, and Tanna Young), as well as our Friends of 4-H (The LOR Foundation and Logan Hindmarsh), and Outstanding Leader (Sabrina Elliott). With the close of 2024, we are also looking to the future of 2025 with enrollment opening. We learned much from this year, but are excited for next year!

### Agriculture

This fall we concluded a CSU Extension Intern project in collaborations with Downtown Colorado Inc., CSU's Rural Economic Development Institute and economic development directors from Ute Mountain Ute Tribe, Town of Mancos and City of Cortez. At the close of the internship we gathered to learn about the actionable steps we can take to support agritourism in our community. Stay tuned for another great agritourism and economic feasibility CSU Extension Internship in 2025.

One of the largest project accomplishments this year was the award of a USDA-NIFA grant that Emily is a team member on. This grant will support multiple projects including support for the CSU Drought Advisor Program and rangeland monitoring staff for the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe.

Emily was also awarded a \$28,800 grant through the LOR foundation to support the work of 2 graduate students to analyze rangeland data, collect land manager narratives and to host an educational rangeland workshop in fall of 2025. We hope to interpret the regenerative grazing practices in relation to soil health and water holding capacity while capturing the history of the land.

### Horticulture

We're celebrating the impact our Colorado Master Gardeners (CMGs) had this year logging over 672 volunteer hours and over 237 continuing education hours in 2025. We're excited to have a new apprentice for the CMG program and one CMG is retaking the Green School training. Master Gardeners in Montezuma County work many hours at the Mesa Verde visitor center and the Canyon of the Ancients Visitor Center. A new project led by Connie Clementson at the library is going strong with a great day planting beds and the coordinator of ongoing maintenance. We hope this provides beautiful garden beds for the library and also provides an educational opportunity for the community on what plants grow well in our area.

We're looking forward to continuing the great work of Master Gardeners in our community in the new year!

## Program Highlights

### 4-H Youth Development

**Sept.:** County Council Officer Elections  
Tour De 4-H

**Oct.:** Knitting 101 Class  
Big R Recruitment Booth  
Trunk or Treat

**Nov.:** Achievement Night  
CLC

Pillow Making Class  
New Family Meetings

**Dec.:** Parade of Lights  
Baking Around the World



## Agriculture

**Sept.:** CSU Extension Internship concluded

**Oct.:** Virtual Fence Field Day on SJNF

**Nov.:** Rangeland Data Analysis Grant projects awarded from LOR, Annie's Project announced for 2025

## Horticulture

**Sept:** You Pick at Yellow Jacket  
Demonstrator Orchard

**June–Oct:** Cortez Farmer's Market

**Nov:** CMG Fall gathering, Start of 2025  
Green School for the Certified Master  
Gardener Program.



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2024 Annual Achievement Night



Summer Ag Irrigation Workshop



Knitting 101 Class final products



Intro to Botany Workshop



Trunk or Treat to recruit youth into the 4-H Program



Vence Field Day

### Upcoming Events

4-H 101

Beef Symposium - January 23

Annie's Project - Jan. 30 - Feb. 1

Ag business resource workshop - late Feb.

Wildlife management - late Feb.


New gardening, nutrition and native plant classes coming in 2025!

### Collaborating Organizations


- Colorado Section of the Society for Range Mngmt
- Common Ground Community Garden
- Cortez and Dolores FFA
- CSU Extension in La Plata, Dolores and Archuleta
- Dolores Quilt Guild
- Dolores Watersheds Collaborative
- Fire Adapted Colorado
- Four Corner Food Coalition
- Good Sam's Food Pantry
- High Desert Conservation District
- KSJD
- LOR Foundation
- Mancos Conservation District
- Mesa Verde Gardeners
- Montezuma County Health Department
- Montezuma County Weed Department
- Montezuma County WIC
- Montezuma Farm to School
- Montezuma Land Conservancy - Fozzie's Farm
- Pueblo Community College- SW
- SW CO Livestock Association
- Southwest Farm to Yarn
- U.S. Bureau of Land Management
- U.S. Forest Service
- Ute Mountain Ute Environmental Services
- Ute Mountain Ute Farm and Ranch Enterprise
- Ute Mountain Ute Natural Resource Department
- Warner College of Natural Resources
- Wildfire Adapted Colorado

### Stay connected!

 CSU Extension - Montezuma County  
Montezuma County 4H Program

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 Sign Up: <http://eepurl.com/iuvHYE>

 <https://montezumaextension.eventbrite.com>



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