



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS AGENDA ITEM REPORT

Requested Board Meeting Date: 11/19/2024

**= Mandatory, information must be provided*

Click or tap the boxes to enter text. If not applicable, indicate "N/A".

***Title:**

Pima County Cooperative Extension Annual Report Presentation

***Introduction/Background:**

The University of Arizona Pima County Cooperative Extension (PCCE) offers educational programming on natural resources, 4-H youth development, and health and nutrition to the citizens of Pima County.

***Discussion:**

Per state statute, the County Board of Supervisors appoints the County Extension Advisory board and receives an annual report from the office. In FY24, Pima County provided \$151,400 to Pima County Cooperative Extension through a budgeted appropriations agreement between Pima County and the University of Arizona. This presentation will describe the distribution of Pima Extension program impact in County Districts in addition to highlighting FY24 program successes and FY25 goals.

***Conclusion:**

Pima County Cooperative Extension programs provide education and engagement to help people throughout Pima County improve their lives. Pima Extension programs provide direct education as well as strategic planning and community collaborations to help Pima County residents and systems become more resilient in the face of future challenges. The support from Pima County government is crucial to that mission and is much appreciated.

***Recommendation:**

Continued support by Pima County for University of Arizona Pima County Cooperative Extension programs and operations.

***Fiscal Impact:**

Discussions are underway to evaluate funding levels in relationship to program elements currently funded by the County and through Pima County Conservation Lands and Resources, and to evaluate the potential for county support to expand the Tucson Village Farm school field trip program.

***Board of Supervisor District:**

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Department: Conservation Lands and Resources

Telephone: 520-724-5000

Contact: Kris Gade

Telephone: 520-724-6451

Department Director Signature:

Kristy Gade

Date:

11/1/2024

Deputy County Administrator Signature:

[Signature]

Date:

11/1/2024

County Administrator Signature:

[Signature]

Date:

1 Nov 24

7/14/2021



THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA

Cooperative Extension

Pima County



ANNUAL REPORT 2023

Pima County Cooperative Extension

Engaging with people through applied research and education to improve lives, families, communities, the environment and economies in Arizona and beyond.

Pima County Cooperative Extension

ANNUAL REPORT 2023



Agriculture &
Natural Resources



4-H Youth
Development



Family, Consumer
and Health Sciences



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We respectfully acknowledge the University of Arizona is on the land and territories of Indigenous peoples. Today, Arizona is home to 22 federally recognized tribes, with Tucson being home to the O’odham and the Yaqui. Committed to diversity and inclusion, the University strives to build sustainable relationships with sovereign Native Nations and Indigenous communities through education offerings, partnerships, and community service.

From the Director

At Pima Extension, we work every day to reach into our community with experiences and education that help people pursue their ambitions and make their lives better. During 2023, our programs continued to develop and grow to better serve a broad range of stakeholders including youth, families, gardeners, growers, and more. I am delighted to let you know that our overall reach increased by over 50% last year, engaging over 55,000 people and providing 136,000 hours of education and outreach. Over 15,000 community members and organizational partners connected to our programs and learned about our work through our bi-monthly e-newsletter, *The Round-Up*.

Looking at the details, our Master Gardener and Smartscape programs grew by 11%. Combined with the Pima County-supported Invasives Species Mitigation Program, the total reach of our natural resources education was 30,000 people. 4-H youth development includes both the 4-H club and Tucson Village Farm programs. This year, the 4-H club program grew from 600 to 700 participating youth. Kids raised everything from rabbits to goats to beef in livestock projects that culminated at the Pima County Fair. Participation in Tucson Village Farm activities increased by 82%, with youth and adult participation levels climbing to 14,500. New outdoor adventure camps engaged teens, culinary and volunteer opportunities brought in adults, and more than 5,000 kids learned about nutrition and growing food as part of school field trips. Pima Extension's health and nutrition programs grew through increased partnering and participation to help underserved and vulnerable people in our community. Highlights include the Family Engagement Program's delivery of parenting education to 330 incarcerated individuals, The Garden Kitchen's partnering to assist 37 community and organizational gardens, and the Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program's expansion to engage with nearly 2000 people at recruiting events.

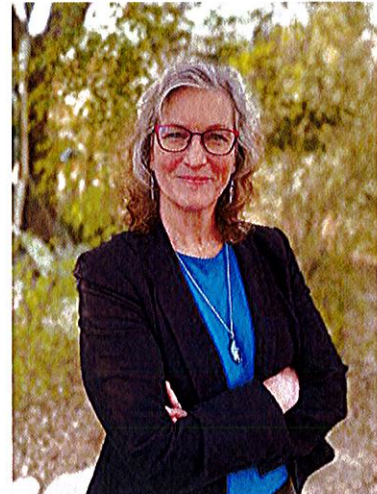
How are we able to reach all these stakeholders? Our dedicated faculty and staff work hard to bring people together and to create opportunities for volunteerism. Volunteers multiply our impact and expand our ability to reach and serve the community. In 2023, 200 Master Gardeners gave horticulture presentations, led tours, tabled at events, and answered questions with scientific detail and integrity. 98 4-H club and project leaders led monthly meetings, ran stock shows, held tagging events, and spent hours and hours at the County Fair. 850 adult and youth volunteers supervised youth adventures, worked events, staffed school visits, and more for Tucson Village Farm 4-H programs. In total, we estimate that volunteers contributed over 50,000 hours of volunteer service in 2023. In addition, the Pima Extension and Tucson Village Farm advisory boards spread our message and support our programs in many ways including fundraising and serving as community advocates for Extension programming.

I invite you to learn about our organization and our diverse programming through this report and to join us for more exceptional experiences in the coming year.

Claire L. Zucker

Director, Pima County Cooperative Extension

clzucker@email.arizona.edu

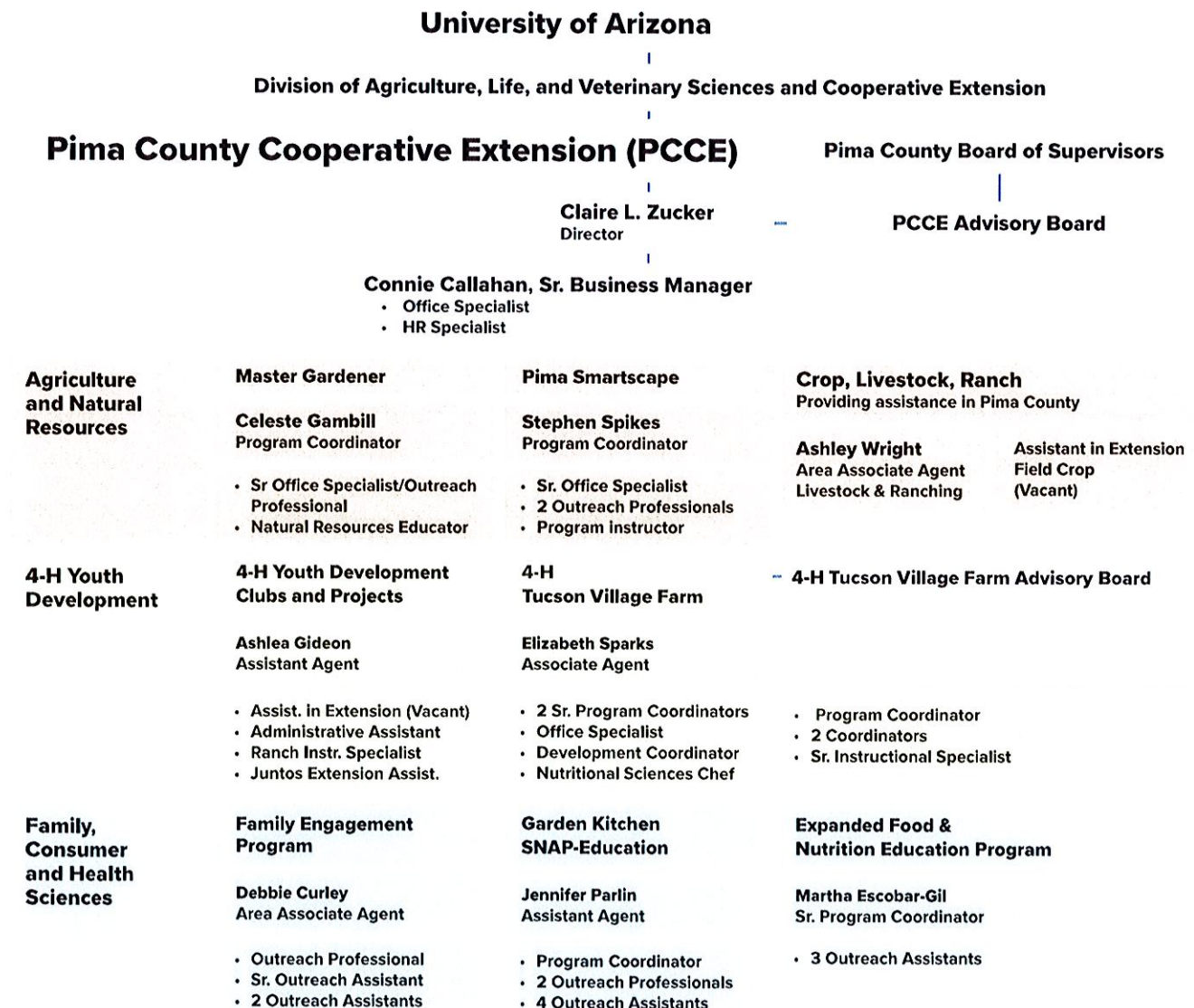


Pima County Cooperative Extension Organization

Pima County Cooperative Extension (PCCE) is an Extension Unit of the University of Arizona, housed under the Division of Agriculture, Life, and Veterinary Sciences and Cooperative Extension. We have four locations in Pima County:

- PCCE Main Office, 4210 N Campbell Avenue, Tucson, AZ 85719, <https://extension.arizona.edu/pima>
- 4-H Healthy Living Center, 2201 E Roger Rd, Tucson, AZ 85719
- The Garden Kitchen, 2205 S 4th Ave, Tucson, AZ 85713
- PCCE Green Valley Office, 530 E Whitehouse Canyon Rd, Green Valley, AZ 85622

The following chart provides an overview of our organizational structure. Additional information including a list of faculty and staff, a financial summary, and contact information can be found on pages 18-19 of this report.



Advisory Boards and Committees

Pima County Cooperative Extension Advisory Board

Per ARS Title 3, the Pima County Board of Supervisors appoints our seven-person Pima County Cooperative Extension Advisory Board. Our Advisory board meets quarterly and all meetings are open to the public. Agendas are posted on our website at [https:// extension.arizona.edu/pima](https://extension.arizona.edu/pima), in paper copy at our offices, 4210 N. Campbell Avenue, Tucson, AZ, and at the Pima County Administration Building, 130 W. Congress Street, Tucson, AZ. Meetings are held in a hybrid format, with some people attending online and others attending at the PCCE Main office. Our Advisory boards provide essential input to help us achieve our goals. Per UArizona guidance, external advisory boards are not governing bodies, but they do provide direction, build networks and partnerships, and help raise funds via philanthropy.

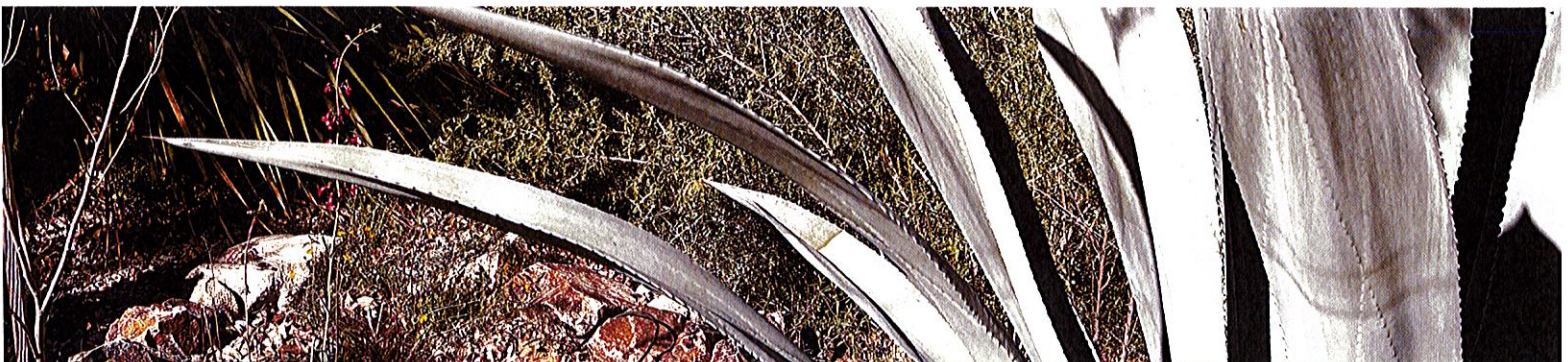
Pima Extension Advisory Board Continuing Members

- Rick Frey, Chair, Contributor to PCCE, owner ARBICO Organics
- Jaqueline Bruhn, Master Gardener, and Volunteer
- Celia Burkel, President, 4-H Executive Council, owner R W Burkel Contracting Inc.
- Justin Byrd, Pima County Realtor, 4th Generation Farmer, Operations Mgr. for Arizona Organic Bean
- Micaela K. McGibbon, 4-H leader, Santa Rita Ranch
- Alana Mozar, Nutrition Services Director, Child-Parent Centers, Inc.
- Amanda Ruboyianes, TVF Advisory Board, owner ENPICA LLC.

4-H Tucson Village Farm Advisory Board

4-H Tucson Village Farm Advisory Board 4-H Tucson Village Farm's dynamic and engaged Advisory Board helps build and guide programmatic and financial sustainability.

- | | |
|-------------------------------|--|
| • Susan Kentosh (Board Chair) | • Paul Lindsey |
| • Kathy Alexander | • Kuumba Piazza |
| • David Benton | • Eva Post (youth advisory board member) |
| • Martha Gilliland | • Bassil Ramadan |
| • Steve Gottlieb | • Amanda Ruboyianes |
| • Curtis Jones | • Cita Scott |
| • Robin Kropp | • Richard White |
| • Nancy Laney | • Ann Wilds |
| • Nancy Landes | • Cliff Wood |
| • Barbara LaWall | |





Agriculture and Natural Resources

Residents and growers have ready access to research-based horticultural and desert landscaping information at Pima Extension. University-trained Master Gardener volunteers teach about best practices for gardening in our desert setting and the Pima Smartscape Program educates and trains about water conservation, xeriscape, irrigation, and more. Invasive species outreach helps Pima County residents care for our natural desert resources.



The twice-yearly Pima Master Gardener plant sales attract more than 1000 people. These sales offer the public a variety of sustainable desert plants and raise funds to support the program's outreach and education.



Over 200 Master Gardener volunteers maintain the Pima Extension gardens, providing over an acre of expertly groomed botanical gardens and science-based education to visitors.

The Master Gardener Program

Horticulture and Master Gardener programs help Pima County community members create healthy outdoor spaces, enhance biodiversity, and strengthen their knowledge, appreciation, and conservation of our Sonoran Desert Landscape. Our **200 Master Gardeners** provide advice and education to the public, maintain demonstration gardens, and provide technical assistance for community, school, and home gardens. This year 63 new Master Gardeners joined the program after participating in a rigorous 18-week training course.

In 2023, the Master Gardener program directly reached 23,066 people through classes, workshops, lectures, the plant clinic, community events, school programs, and through tours of our free demonstration gardens and the UA Campus Arboretum. The amazing Master Gardener volunteers donated over **36,000 hours of volunteer service in Pima County**.

171 Master Gardener lectures, both in-person and online, reached **8,387 participants** with information about garden planning, plant selection, irrigation and water use, pruning, and more.

3,131 online and in-person public inquiries about garden-related topics were answered with science-based relevant information.

Over 400 lbs. of fresh-grown produce were donated by the Master Gardener Program to the Casa Maria Soup Kitchen.

Educational Facebook and Instagram posts reached over **424,830 post views and 19,800 post engagements**.

With grant assistance, Green Valley Master Gardeners are creating a veterans' garden to help veterans gain gardening skills, grow produce, and improve their nutrition.

Invasives Outreach

Invasive plant species pose a severe threat to the Sonoran Desert and its ecosystem. In 2023, the invasive species program gave **25 presentations to 625 people** through public libraries, neighborhood associations, school groups, and more. The program conducted four home visits, led and/or participated in 31 invasive species volunteer removal events, and educated over 300 people at a variety of outreach events.

Agriculture and Natural Resources Team

Program Coordinator Celeste Gambill leads the Master Gardener Program and Community Outreach Assistant Ben Tully is our natural resources educator for invasive species mitigation. Community Outreach Professional Cassie Burrueel continues to oversee the Green Valley Master Gardener Program while also working with the Family Engagement Program.

Celeste Gambill, Ben Tully





Smartscape Instructor Emma Stahl-Wert explains the importance of native trees in the Green Stormwater Infrastructure class for landscape professionals.

Smartscape

The Pima Smartscape Program offers practical landscaping and water conservation classes adapted to the fragile Sonoran Desert. Choosing low-water-use plants and installing and maintaining efficient irrigation helps people reduce water use while maintaining inviting green spaces. The program also demonstrates water-wise gardening in coordination with the Master Gardener Program. Pima Smartscape is conducted in **partnership with Tucson Water** and their generous support enables us to offer classes free of charge.

768 residents and landscape professionals learned about water-saving gardening and landscaping techniques through Pima Smartscape programs.

212 landscape and irrigation professionals earned certificates through our ten-part Smartscape courses or three-part advanced courses.

9 rainwater harvesting classes and 4 drip irrigation system classes **educated 421 residents** about passive and active systems and how to assess their

property to be eligible for the City of Tucson Rainwater Harvesting Rebate and about using, maintaining, and troubleshooting their household systems.

43 City of Tucson employees attended Smartscape Bootcamp to help them better care for municipal greenspaces.

Over 1,100 people attended the 4th Sustainable Landscapes Expo held at the Pima Extension office. This free, family-friendly event, which included over forty exhibits, increased knowledge on efficient water usage and sustainable landscaping in the Southern Arizona desert.

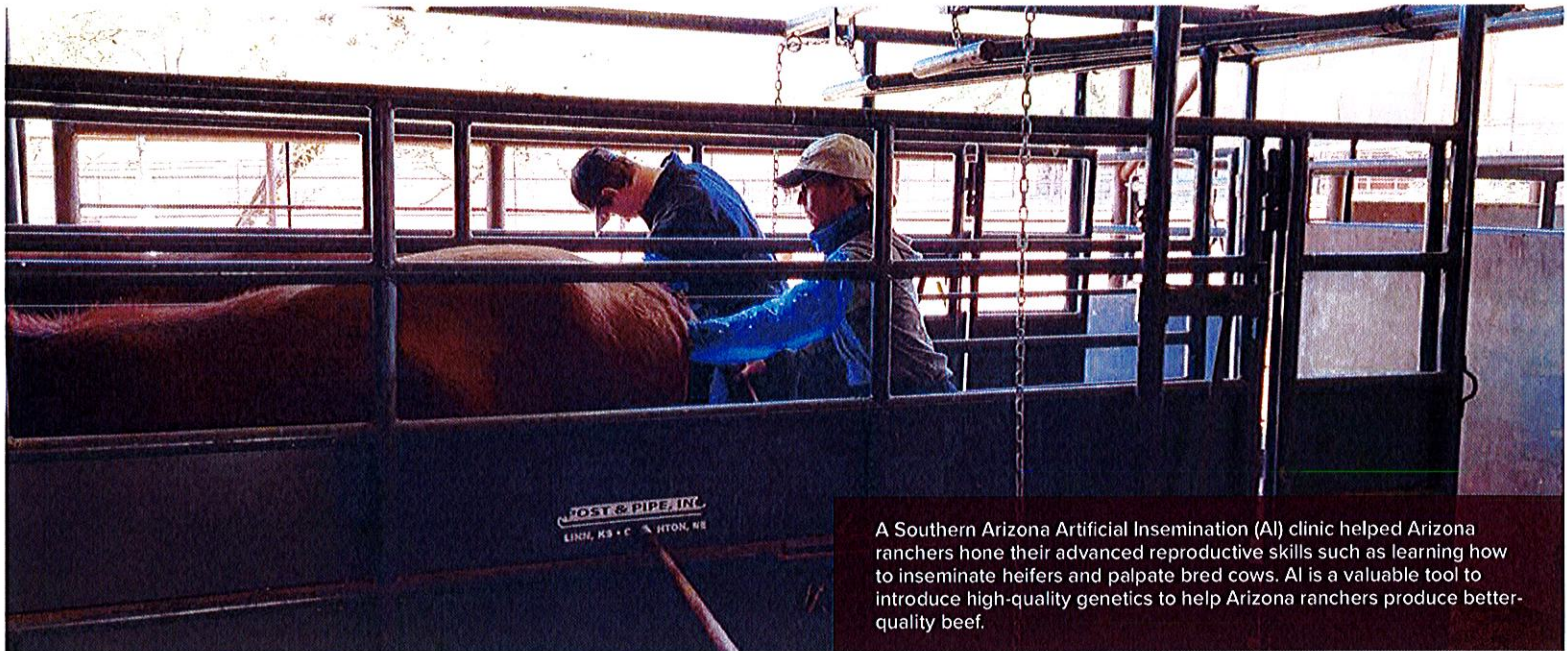
Building on prior success, the Tucson Homeowners Association (HOA) Landscape Transformation Incentive Program offers resources and up to \$10,000 or more to qualifying Tucson Water HOA commercial customers.



Smartscape Team

During 2023, Program Manager Karen Hanshaw led Smartscape. With Karen's retirement at the end of the year, Stephen Spikes joined the Smartscape team as the program coordinator, while Karen returned to support the program. Other members of the team include Senior Office Specialist Debbie Lesko, Community Outreach Professionals Nelva Valenzuela and Pedro Sanchez, Program Instructor Jose Cano, and Graduate Student Worker Karina Martinez.

Karen Hanshaw, Stephen Spikes, Debbie Lesko, Karina Martinez, Nelva Valenzuela, Jose Cano, Pedro Sanchez



A Southern Arizona Artificial Insemination (AI) clinic helped Arizona ranchers hone their advanced reproductive skills such as learning how to inseminate heifers and palpate bred cows. AI is a valuable tool to introduce high-quality genetics to help Arizona ranchers produce better-quality beef.

Livestock and Crop Assistance in Pima County

Pima County Cooperative Extension shares resources with Pinal and Cochise County Extension offices to support farmers and ranchers within our county. Pima County has over 20,000 acres of irrigated agriculture and extensive grazing pastureland. Besides cotton, most acreage produces grain, primarily desert durum wheat, and forage. Twenty-one percent of Pima County farms specialize in cattle production, followed by hogs and horses. Pima County has an estimated inventory of 18,000 head of cattle, which contributes just over \$14 million to the economy through cattle and calve sales and animal processing facilities.

Livestock Assistance

Livestock assistance for Pima, Cochise, and Santa Cruz counties is provided by Area Associate Agent Ashley Wright.

Approximately 100 producers were reached with important updates on prescription-only antibiotics, FMD, and Protein/Mineral Supplementation at a local bull sale in Marana.

66 producers from across Southern Arizona attended the 2023 **Range Livestock Nutrition Workshop** to learn about toxic plants, vaccination protocols, nutrition, recordkeeping, and virtual fencing.

9 new Pima County producers became **certified in Beef Quality Assurance**, bringing Pima County's total up to 79 certified producers, an increase of 33% since 2015.

The third annual Southeastern Arizona Artificial Insemination (AI) Clinic was held in Pima County attracting producers from across the region. This three-day workshop taught producers how to take advantage of AI in their operations.

12 articles were published in local, regional, and national newsletters addressing emerging issues in Arizona's beef industry and 4 issues of "Arizona Range and Livestock News" were distributed to 464 readers per issue across Southeastern Arizona.

The **Southern Arizona Equine Health Symposium** was held in Pima County, and it was attended by 259 equine owners with 75% residing in Pima County

Crop Assistance

In 2023, Cooperative Extension conducted **14 individual field trials evaluating agronomic aspects of cotton** production in the desert production systems of central Arizona. Projects Included a heat tolerance evaluation examining the effects of elevated crop canopy temperatures on cotton flower morphology and development and an evaluation of the agronomic performance of pre-commercial release cotton varieties from various commercial seed companies. In addition, **alternative defoliation materials and tank mixes were studied**, and a survey was conducted for glyphosate-resistant palmer amaranth populations in cotton fields across southern Arizona. Growers cooperated in Upland cotton variety evaluations for various commercial and pre-commercial release cotton cultivars in various locations across Pima and Pinal Counties

Results from all evaluations conducted within Central Arizona (Pima and Pinal Counties) are communicated to growers and the cotton industry through field days, grower meetings, UArizona Extension website, and industry newsletters.

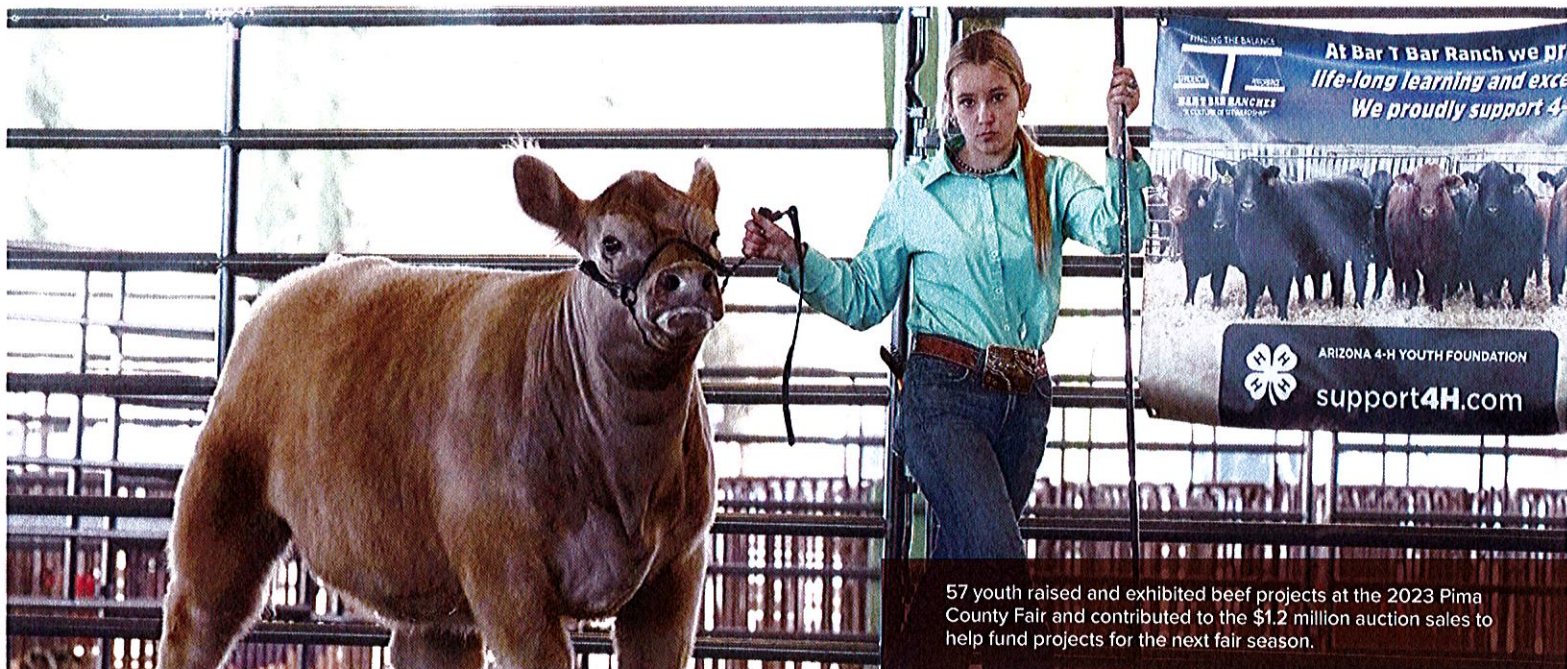


4-H Youth Development

Youth build lifelong skills and have great fun through UArizona Cooperative Extension 4-H. At Pima Extension, kids can get involved in one of our many clubs or projects, capped by participation at the County Fair. In addition, 4-H Ranch Education and the 4-H Juntos Program provided specialty 4-H club experiences. Youth can also build gardening, culinary, and leadership skills through seed-to-table programming, outdoor education, and a ropes challenge course at Tucson Village Farm, a working urban farm built by and for the youth of our community.



Youth in the 4-H Healthy Living Ambassador club organized four Sunset Supper events, collaborating with a local chef to craft four-course farm-to-table meals. This project emphasizes skill development in meal preparation, management, and food service, fostering qualities of responsibility, adaptability, and professionalism among the young participants.



57 youth raised and exhibited beef projects at the 2023 Pima County Fair and contributed to the \$1.2 million auction sales to help fund projects for the next fair season.

4-H Club Program

The 4-H Club Program offers youth diverse opportunities for growth in leadership and responsibility. Youth taking part in club activities through Pima Extension 4-H are offered a wide variety of projects including large livestock with beef cattle, dairy cattle, swine, lamb, goat, dairy goat, as well as small stock which includes rabbit, cavy, pigeon, poultry, and pygmy goat. Other projects include horsemanship and shooting sports. The 2023 4-H year began in August 2022, with youth joining one of our 31 clubs, choosing projects throughout the Fall, and then competing at the County Fair. Our Juntos and Ranch Education 4-H programming also continued this year.

For the 2023 4-H year, which ended in May 2023, **677 youth** learned about animal care and production, civic engagement, STEM education, ranching, and leadership with the guidance of **98 adult volunteers and leaders**.

31 clubs offer 4-H activities and provide access to Pima Extension projects and state-level learning experience to deliver over **27,700 hours of education and skill-building activities**. The program grew from 600 youth enrolling in projects and competing at the

Spring 2023 Pima County Fair to 700 enrolling in Fall 2023 to compete in 2024.

The Pima County Fair 4-H experience allows youth to participate in 11 days of showmanship, skill competitions, and sales activities. Over **\$1.3M was raised at the 2023 livestock auction**, helping youth fund their projects for next year and contributing toward their college education funds.

The 4-H ranch education program at the Pima County Bar V Ranch grew to provide over **300 hours of on-ranch education** to 80 participants who learned about ranch operations, beef health and nutrition, pregnancy checking, roundups, and more.

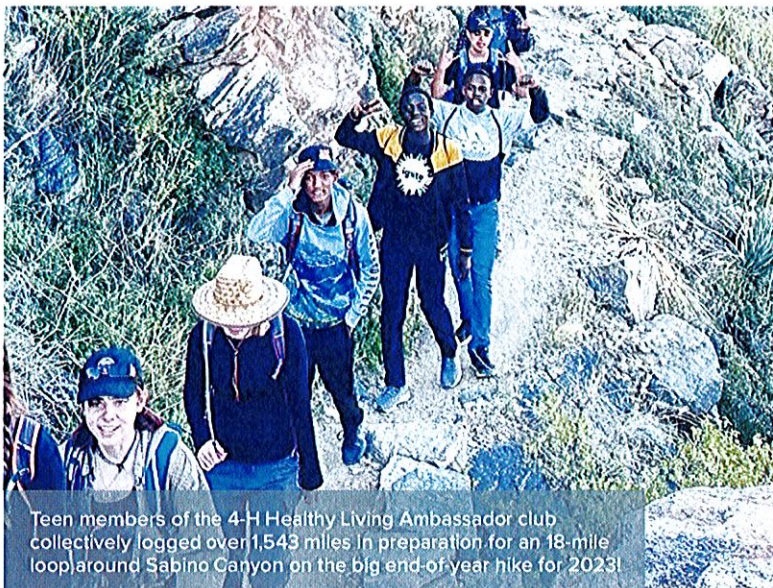
The 4-H Juntos Program, which began in late 2022, focuses on offering 8th-12th grade Latino youths opportunities to gain knowledge and skills to bridge the gap between high school and higher education. In 2023, 34 youth participated in meetings and the 4-H Summit camp, and another 100 youth were reached through outreach events.

The 4-H Club Team

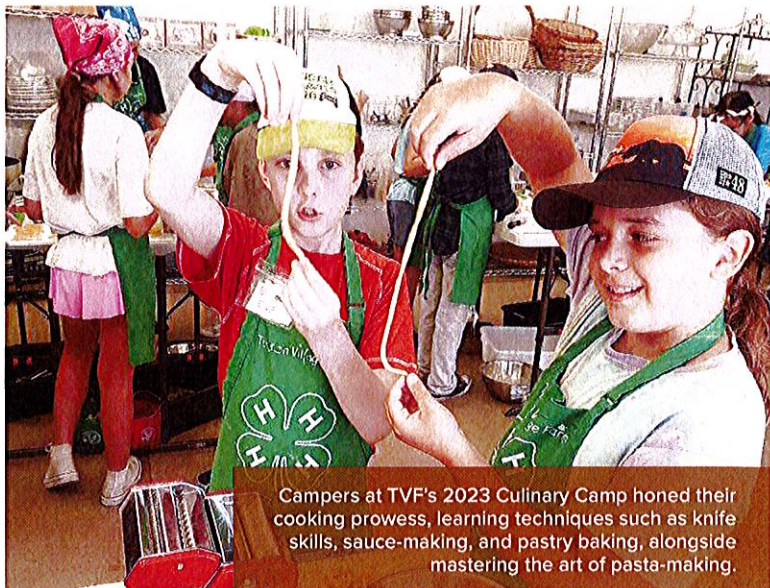
Assistant Agent Ashlea Gideon managed the 4-H club program, with assistance from Administrative Assistant Madison Ramirez, who joined the team in the Fall of 2023. Other team members included Juntos Extension Assistant Daniel Gracia and Ranch Instructional Specialist Hannah Rice.

Hannah Rice, Daniel Gracia, Ashlea Gideon, Madison Ramirez





Teen members of the 4-H Healthy Living Ambassador club collectively logged over 1,543 miles in preparation for an 18-mile loop around Sabino Canyon on the big end-of-year hike for 2023!



Campers at TVF's 2023 Culinary Camp honed their cooking prowess, learning techniques such as knife skills, sauce-making, and pastry baking, alongside mastering the art of pasta-making.

4-H Tucson Village Farm

"Growing more than Veggies, Tucson Village Farm is growing healthy kids". Tucson Village Farm is a working urban farm with seed-to-table education for youth ages 2 – 22. TVF has two locations; a one-acre "little Farm" across from the Extension Office and an eight-acre 4-H Healthy Living Center with a farm, culinary kitchen, and high ropes challenge course located on Roger Road. This year, Tucson Village Farm programs reached 8,486 youth and 6,013 adults and delivered nearly 62,000 hours of programming. Over 10,000 hours of both youth and adult volunteerism helped make the program successful.

In 2023 TVF held many of their signature field trips, Growing Forward for K-2nd grades and "Dig In" for 3rd grade and up. Both field trip programs showed growth, but this was especially true for the "Dig In" program which grew from 216 participating youth in 2022 to **1,347 youth in 2023**. Learning extends beyond the field trip, as each teacher gets a packet of fun activities to continue garden and nutrition lessons back in the classroom.

TVF summer '23 was filled with outdoor learning fun with **440 campers participating in one or more of the 19 camps** offered. Dynamic hands-on programming ranged from growing and harvesting food to hiking, art,

and cooking. In addition, 104 teens and young adults learned life and leadership skills as counselors and counselors in training.

With **28 culinary classes** drawing in 72 young participants and 387 adults, alongside **1,353 youth attendees** and **595 adults** taking on the ropes course, along with the contribution of 173 teenage volunteers (at the ropes course alone), Tucson Village Farm is continuously buzzing with activity, learning, and adventure. Additionally, the farm hosts various projects and meetings for its 191-member 4-H Healthy Living Ambassador Club, adding to the wide repertoire of all they do.

This year, **a new arts program** was initiated because of an extensive art-room renovation provided by JOANN Fabrics. Stakeholder and youth surveys are underway to guide our new art programming.

The "Big Farm" facilities continued to grow with the exciting **addition of a new greenhouse** to expand plant germination and extend the growing season. Because of a generous donation, we were able to install an orchard on the property, dedicated to a former TUSD teacher, Mr. John Brooks, who was an inspiration to many.



The 4-H Tucson Village Farm Team

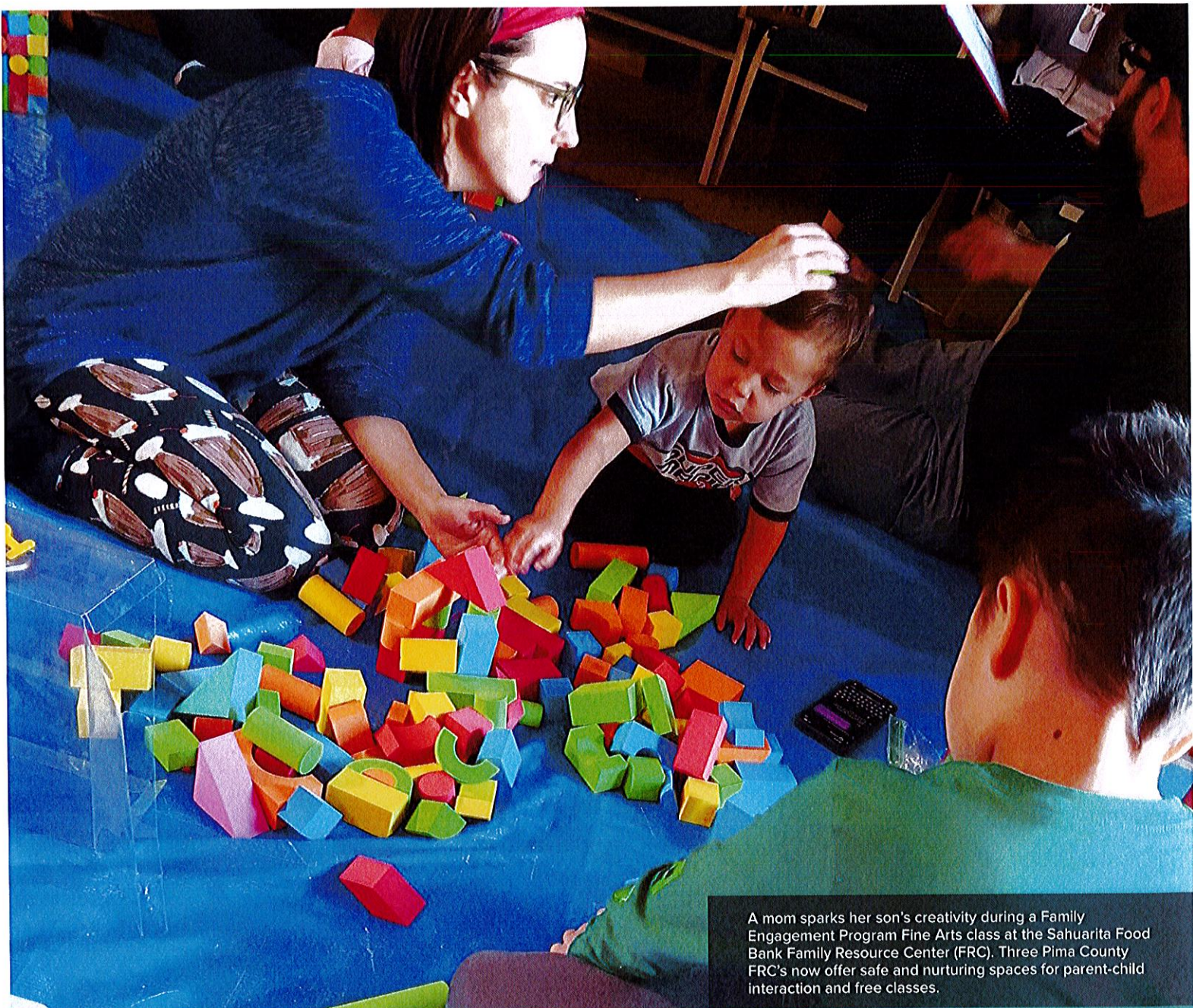
Associate Agent Elizabeth Sparks oversees the program which includes Senior Program Coordinators Leza Carter and George Stefanakis, Farm Manager/Program Coordinator Alex Atkin, Community Outreach and Development Coordinator Jessica Luse, and Nutritional Sciences Chef Becky Yim. In addition, during 2023 TVF staff include Senior Instructional Specialist Thom Plasse, and Coordinators Brittany Sandoval (Growing Forward), Elsa Jacobson (Healthy Living Ambassador Club), and Moonie Tyler (TVF Camps). Office Specialist Letti Haro-Astorga joined the team in January 2024. TVF is fortunate to have a highly active and engaged Advisory Board working to support facilities and programming.

Elizabeth Sparks, Becky Yim, Letti Haro-Astorga, Leza Carter, George Stefanakis, Moonie Tyler, Elsa Jacobson, Alex Atkin, Thom Plasse, Jessica Luse



Family, Consumer and Health Sciences

Pima County Cooperative Extension's Family, Consumer and Health Sciences programs help build strong families, strong minds, and strong bodies. Parents and caregivers gain tools to enrich children's lives through the Family Engagement Program. Nutritional and healthy life skills are taught through the SNAP-Ed/Garden Kitchen and EFNEP programs. Collaborations with partner organizations help spread our educational messages throughout the community.



A mom sparks her son's creativity during a Family Engagement Program Fine Arts class at the Sahuarita Food Bank Family Resource Center (FRC). Three Pima County FRC's now offer safe and nurturing spaces for parent-child interaction and free classes.



Families solve the puzzles of an escape room game using skills they learned in the Money Talks financial literacy class.

Family Engagement Program

The Family Engagement Program (FEP) has been helping parents and caregivers gain tools to create positive and inspiring environments for children since its start in 2015. In 2023, FEP staff delivered over 3,600 hours of education, with **479 parents and caregivers attending 221 free workshops** to add skills to their parenting toolbox. 100% of the participants said they intend to use FEP information to better support their children.

74 people took part in the Positive Discipline program across the state. After this six-session series, participants reported a 42% decrease in yelling at their children and a 14% decrease in their use of corporal punishment.

151 participants completed 6 series of Brain Waves workshops reporting a 26% increase in knowledge of their child's brain development.

33 sessions of the Positive Parenting Program (Triple P) child behavior management series were delivered to 115 individuals. By the end of the series, participants experience a 41% decrease in depression, a 44% decrease in anxiety, and a 34% decrease in stress.

57% of FEP class participants are located within the Arizona State Prison Complex-Tucson or Federal Corrections Institute. During 2023, **12 Inside Out Dad**

classes were taught to 19 incarcerated caregivers at the Federal Corrections Institute. Participants reported a 21% increase in knowledge about how to handle their feelings and a 19% increase in being able to see things from the point of view of the mother or caregiver of their children. In addition, 13 incarcerated individuals completed 3 six-session **Down to Earth Dads** series, which gently teaches gardening as a metaphor for parenting.

FEP began an exciting new program to **certify incarcerated individuals in Arizona to teach their peers** the Triple P curriculum. This year, 28 people received this training, sharpened their teaching skills, and helped adapt lessons to the prison setting. Arizona is the only site in the world where incarcerated people have been trained to teach Triple P.

We are excited that **3 Family Resource Centers (FRCs) were opened** as part of the new program coordinated by United Way of Tucson and Southern Arizona and funded by First Things First. The Family Engagement Program taught 13 interactive classes for 20 parents and their 28 young children at the FRC sites at Sahuarita Food Bank, Robles Elementary in Altar Valley, and Los Ranchitos Sunnyside. These centers have the potential to make a substantial impact on families through long-lasting intervention.



The FEP Team

FCHS Associate Agent Debbie Curley manages the Family Engagement Program and during 2023 oversaw a team of Community Outreach Professional Cassie Burruel, Senior Outreach Assistant Vicki Hadd-Wissler, and Outreach Assistants Myke Ramirez and Cynthia Felix. Administrative Assistant Zeleste Arce worked in the program for most of 2023. Cassie also oversees the Green Valley office and the Master Gardener Program at that location.

Debbie Curley, Vicki Hadd-Wissler, Myke Ramirez, Cassie Burruel, Zeleste Arce, and Cynthia Felix



SNAP Education / The Garden Kitchen

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Education (SNAP-Ed) works within policy, systems, and environmental changes to ensure equity in health opportunities. Arizona SNAP-Ed initiatives include educational classes on topics such as gardening, physical activity, and nutrition, social marketing campaigns, and work that improves the local food system. The PCCE portion of Pima SNAP-Ed is housed at The Garden Kitchen, located in the City of South Tucson. The site includes a certified commercial kitchen and teaching kitchen, a demonstration vegetable garden with a variety of gardening methods, and a mobile produce market.

In 2023, **The Garden Kitchen reached more than 2,500 people** through direct programming and collaborated at more than 60 community sites with over 30 partner organizations in Pima County. These included Child Parent Centers, Catholic Community Services, the Pascua Yaqui tribe, and Pima County Libraries.

Over 300 organization leaders and early childhood teachers were trained in trauma awareness,

seed-to-table concepts, gardening, physical activity, and nutrition.

37 community and organizational gardens were implemented with The Garden Kitchen's assistance. These sites include Pascua Yaqui Head Start, housing sites, and several public libraries.

1,013 social media posts shared gardening education, food access, and physical activity opportunities reaching 5003 followers.

419 adults participated in some form of community engagement with The Garden Kitchen to improve program implementation.

The **Promoting Local Arizona Agriculture (PLAZA) mobile market was implemented**, with pilot programs at an affordable housing complex and a local library, contributing to survey data that fundamentally shaped the program going forward. The PLAZA mobile market became a SNAP retailer and will continue to expand programming in 2024.

The Garden Kitchen Team

The Garden Kitchen Team /SNAP-Ed is led by Assistant Agent Jenn Parlin. This year, Community Outreach Professionals Glenda Garcia and Carlyn Arteaga and Community Outreach Assistants Nancy Tepper, Ed Beltran, and Veronique Villalba were joined by Community Outreach Assistant Grace Born and Community Outreach Professional Meredith Glaubach to improve health systems and environments in Pima County, connect with the South Tucson community, and educate neighborhood residents.

Meredith Glaubach, Grace Born, Veronique Villalba, Nancy Tepper, Glenda Garcia, Ed Beltran, Carlyn Arteaga, Jenn Parlin





After completing the Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program class series, families at the Menlo Park Family Resource Center proudly display their certificates.

Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP)

The Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP) contributes to the health of Arizona by helping low-income families improve their diets and nutritional practices, handle food more safely, increase their physical activity, and connect with local resources. This is accomplished through a series of hands-on, interactive lessons wherein program participants learn and are encouraged to improve food and physical activity behaviors. In doing so, EFNEP contributes to the efforts to reduce health disparities typically associated with those who have limited financial resources.

Nutrition insecurity, characterized by poor nutrition, limited physical activity, and unsafe food practices, is a significant national health concern, especially among low-income populations that disproportionately experience poor health. EFNEP remains at the forefront of nutrition education efforts to reduce nutrition insecurity of low-income families and youth today.

In 2023, Pima EFNEP taught over **200 classes** as part of EFNEP class series and reached over **4500 individuals** via direct education and recruitment events, with more than 4000 engagements through social media.

121 adult community members enrolled in the EFNEP series, and 60 earned their EFNEP certificates by participating in 12 hours of education on nutrition, food safety, physical activity, and more. These classes took place at family resource centers, schools, rehabilitation centers, and low-income housing.

Over 250 youth received nutrition and physical activity education, with 43 learning the material through a collaboration with Tucson Village Farm.

In 2023, Pima EFNEP was invited to **12 community events** where they met with close to 2000 community members to educate them about nutrition and the EFNEP program. Community events are an exciting and dynamic way to engage with our audiences, build relationships, and recruit participants.

By sending out a quarterly newsletter to 300 community members, posting on social media, and inviting past and present partners to tell their friends and colleagues about the program, **EFNEP continues its education beyond the classroom setting.**



The EFNEP Team

In 2023, Senior Program Coordinator Martha Escobar-Gil took over leadership of the Pima County EFNEP team. Mid-year, long-time Outreach Assistant Kim Schmieder (not pictured) retired, and Outreach Assistants Ivonne Martinez and Marlene U. Navarro were joined by Pattie Montijo in December 2023.

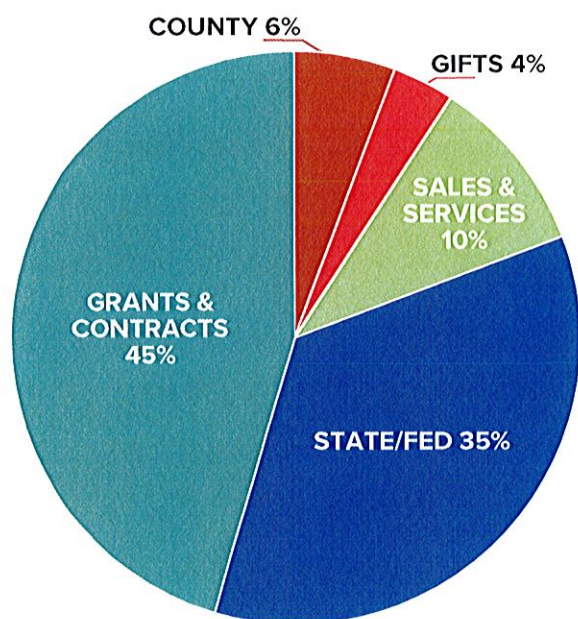
Pattie Montijo, Martha Escobar-Gil, Ivonne Martinez, Marlene Navarro

Financial

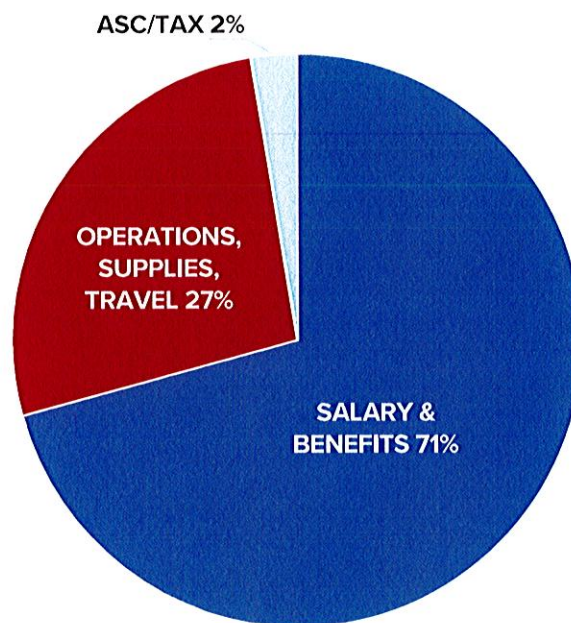
The following is a summary of revenue and expenses for the Pima County Cooperative Extension. As the State's land grant institution, the University of Arizona administers an expansive effort to bring state, federal, and county funding together to support Cooperative Extension. Staff and programs are further supported by faculty when they are awarded grants, negotiate contracts, or receive donations. County government support includes the provision of reasonable office space for the conduct of Extension work, per State statute ARS Title 3. At Pima Extension, our Cambell Road office is in a Pima County building and The Garden Kitchen and the Green Valley offices are leased from Pima County. Pima Extension also receives operations and program funding from Pima County through an Appropriations Agreement. Pima Extension collaborates with Pima County Natural Resources to create a mutually beneficial work program and budget that is approved on a fiscal year basis.

In addition to the revenue shown below, some funds reside within UA Foundation accounts where they are earmarked for future program use. In the Expenditure pie chart below, operations and supplies include a wide array of purchases, but most are supplies that are necessary for program delivery such as food for demonstrations or training materials. This category also includes facilities maintenance, utilities, vehicle maintenance, and other standard operating expenses.

PCCE Revenue, 2023



PCCE Expenditures, 2023



The Admin Team

In 2022, our administrative team continued to be led by Sr. Business Manager Connie Callahan. Administrative Support was provided by Office specialist Lydia Rogan, who also serves as our front desk receptionist. Monique Talamantes assisted with Human resources until she left the unit in the Fall 2023. Connie also took many of the photos in this annual report including all the staff photos and the cover photo.

Lydia Rogan, Monique Talamantes, Connie Callahan





PCCE Contact, Staff List, and Locations

Contact Us

Pima County Cooperative Extension

Website: <https://extension.arizona.edu/pima>

Email: pcce@arizona.edu | Phone: 520-626-5161

Administration

- Claire L. Zucker, Director
- Connie Callahan, Senior Business Manager
- Lydia Rogan, Office Specialist

Agriculture and Natural Resources

Master Gardener Program: <https://extension.arizona.edu/pima-master-gardeners>

- Celeste Gambill, Program Coordinator, Master Gardener Program
- Cassie Burrue, Community Outreach Professional
- Ben Tully, Community Outreach Assistant, Natural Resources Educator

Pima Smartscape Program: <https://pimasmartscape.arizona.edu>

- Stephen Spikes, Senior Program Coordinator, Outreach Professional
- Deborah Lesko, Smartscape, Sr. Office Specialist
- Nelva Valenzuela, Community Outreach Professional
- Pedro Sanchez, Community Outreach Professional
- Karen Hanshaw, Community Outreach Professional

4-H Youth Development

4-H Club Program: <https://extension.arizona.edu/4h/pima>

- Ashlea Gideon, Assistant Agent
- Madison Ramirez, Administrative Support Assistant, Office Specialist
- Daniel Gracia, Extension Assistant, 4-H Juntos Coordinator
- Hannah Rice, Outreach Instructional Specialist, 4-H Ranch Education

4-H Tucson Village Farm: <https://tucsonvillagefarm.arizona.edu/>

Tucson Village Farm Direct Phone Number: 520-626-1006

- Elizabeth Sparks, Associate Agent
- Leza Carter, Senior Program Coordinator, Health Education Professional
- Jessica Luse, Senior Program Coordinator (Development), Health Education Professional
- George Stefanakis, Senior Program Coordinator
- Alexandra Atkin, Farm Manager Program Coordinator, Extension Professional
- Angelica “Letti” Haro-Astorga, Office Specialist
- Elsa Jacobson, Program Coordinator (Healthy Living Ambassador), Extension Professional
- Thom Plasse, Senior Instructional Specialist, Extension Assistant
- Moonie Tyler, Program Coordinator (Camps), Extension Professional
- Rebecca Yim, Nutritional Sciences Chef

Family, Consumer and Health Sciences

Family Engagement Program: <https://extension.arizona.edu/pima-family-engagement>

- Deborah Curley, Area Associate Agent (Pima and Santa Cruz Counties)
- Cassie Burruel, Community Outreach Professional, Green Valley
- Vicki Hadd-Wissler, Senior Community Outreach Assistant
- Michael “Myke” Ramirez, Community Outreach Assistant

SNAP-Education/The Garden Kitchen: <http://thegardenkitchen.org/>

The Garden Kitchen Direct Phone Number: 520.621.0476

- Jennifer Parlin, Assistant Agent
- Glenda Garcia, Program Coordinator, Community Outreach Professional
- Carlyn Arteaga, Community Outreach Professional
- Meredith Glaubach, Community Outreach Professional
- Edward Beltran, Community Outreach Assistant
- Nancy Tepper, Community Outreach Assistant
- Veronique Villalba, Community Outreach Assistant
- Grace Born, Community Outreach Assistant

Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program:

<https://extension.arizona.edu/pima-community-nutrition-education>

- Martha Escobar-Gil, Senior Program Coordinator, Community Outreach Professional
- Ivonne Martinez, Community Outreach Assistant, Educator
- Marlene Navarro, Community Outreach Assistant, Educator
- Patricia Montijo, Community Outreach Assistant, Educator

Note: Personnel lists shown in this report were updated in Spring 2024.



THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA

Cooperative Extension

Pima County



Master Gardeners gather to listen to a Pima Extension Smartscape Advanced Irrigation lecture. Master Gardeners complete 10 hours of continuing education each year, so that they can stay current and share up-to-date horticultural practices with the public.

Locations

Pima County Cooperative Extension has operations in four locations in Pima County.

PCCE Main Office

4210 N Campbell Avenue
Tucson, AZ 85719-1109

All Programs | Demonstration Garden | Tucson Village Farm "Little Farm" | 4-H Fab Lab

4-H Healthy Living Center

2201 E Roger Rd
Tucson, AZ 85719

Tucson Village Farm "Big Farm" | Angel Charity Culinary Education Center | High Ropes Challenge Course

The Garden Kitchen

2205 S 4th Ave
Tucson, AZ 85713

SNAP Education

Green Valley Office

530 E Whitehouse Canyon Rd
Green Valley, AZ 85622

Master Gardener | Family Engagement Program

Pima County Cooperative Extension

extension.arizona.edu/pima

Email: pcce@arizona.edu

Phone: 520-626-5161