Propagation, pests and disease were on hand to offer instruction to the public on selecting and maintaining a healthy citrus tree.

A juicing machine was back, producing orange juice on the spot. Experts on citrus fertilization, irrigation, and integrated pest management were available for questions.

Biz Kid$, an entrepreneurship project in the Buena Vista Mavericks 4-H Community Club, Tempe, Arizona, funds will be going to Foster Mercy. Foster Mercy is an organization that helps kids in the foster system get an education and learn life skills.

The Boutique is also, in part, a charity event. A percent of the profit is donated every year. This year, the proceeds will go to Water for Food.

SNAP-Ed, a federal program that helps low-income families purchase healthy foods, is involved in a new initiative called “Lettuce” tell you about a new professional development program. Registration for these events is $25 per day, and participants will receive professional development hours, a certificate of completion, and a program packet. More information can be found at www.centrl.org/events.

The Urban Horticulture Program and Master Gardeners of Arizona will be offering a tour at the Yuma Ag Center on Friday, February 18, 2022, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Teachers will have the opportunity to learn more about dates, H2A workers, harvesting, packing and distribution, and pest management.

As we approach the application deadline of March 15, 2022, for the Culinary Medicine class in the hoophouse and gardens, the harvested crops would be prepared in the new state-of-the-art kitchen. The kitchen was renovated to be a commercial food preparation facility last year and has been passing inspections with flying colors. A new commercial refrigerator and freezer were recently installed as well as the installation of a new ventilation system, allowing the Farmers to sell their crops at farmers markets and other venues.

The fire alarm system will hopefully be completed later this summer. Outside improvements include installing new and updated irrigation, improving drainage, and expanding the demonstration garden. The demonstration garden will feature different citrus fruits which can be grown in our area.

As we continue to grow our demonstration farm, there are few places where kids and adults alike can come together and have fun while learning about agriculture, horticulture, and sustainability.

Please feel free to pass this email along to anyone who you think would be interested in this professional development program. For more information, please contact gregbettis@azcentral.com or call 602-256-7269.