



Maricopa County Cooperative Extension

IMPROVING LIVES, COMMUNITIES,
AND THE ECONOMY

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FREE, FUN and FANTASTIC!

Jenny Weber, Assistant in Extension- Pesticide Safety Education

If you or someone you know is preparing to take the National Pesticide Applicator Certification Core Exam (the main exam for both agricultural and structural pesticide applicator certifications), have I got a deal for you. Between

August and October, I will offer 3 pre-certification core training courses in 3 months in 3 locations – Phoenix, Yuma, and Marana. As always, these courses will be FREE, FUN, and FANTASTIC. However, for the first time ever, I will purchase and provide a study guide for everyone who completes the course.

The course and all of the materials provided are designed for people who prefer an in-person format; like the opportunity to ask questions to clarify pesticide safety and use details; learn best through discussion, small group tasks, hands-on activities, demos, and fun gameshow quizzes; and whose eyeballs just might be getting a little bit tired of staring at computer screens.

The registration form for Yuma is below and I will soon create registration form for the workshop in Marana, which I will circulate through this listserv in a few weeks. However, if you would like to save the dates on your calendar, I've listed them below.

Phoenix- August 2nd, 4th, 9th, and 11th – The course will be presented during 4 short morning sessions (to beat the heat).

Yuma – September 15th and 22nd - The course will be presented during 2 full day sessions, a week apart (allowing for fun “better-than-homework tasks” and to prevent information overload).

Registration is now open for the Pesticide Applicator Pre-Certification Core Training in Yuma. The FREE course will be presented in-person for two full days on September 15th and 22nd. Attendees will receive a copy of the National Pesticide Applicator Certification Core Study Guide and other materials to assist them in preparing for the agricultural and structural (PMD) core exams.

Click this [flyer](#) for more [details and the fillable pre-registration form](#). The course agenda and site information will be sent following pre-registration.

Marana – October 18th and 25th - The course will be presented during 2 full day sessions, a week apart (same reason above, to allow for fun “better-than-homework tasks” and to prevent information overload).

Special Note: Requests for future pre-certification courses have been coming in from pesticide applicators who work in the Navajo Nation. I will be happy to collaborate with you to offer a training in your area as well.

For additional information contact Jenny Weber at jennyweber@arizona.edu.



Urban Horticulture Program

Michael Chamberland, Assistant Agent in Urban Horticulture

The City of Surprise has built a Xeriscape Demonstration Garden in their City Hall Complex. This is adjacent to the Water Education Center where Master Gardeners have a satellite office. Surprise will hold the grand opening on September 17th. Maricopa County Urban Horticulture is in discussion with the City of Surprise about performing data collection in the Garden to improve our understanding of the needs of establishing plants in a low-water use landscape. Master Gardeners may aid in performing data collection and monitoring in the Xeriscape Garden.



Tree Talks

Extension Tree Talks is a new discussion opportunity for professionals in the tree and landscape management fields. Talks are being held in hybrid format, both live & Zoom, on the second Thursday of each month, from 3-4 pm at the

Maricopa County Extension Office. Two Tree Talks have been held to date, and these are already building on our outreach to the arborist community.

Project CENTRL

Scott Koenig, Executive Director - Project CENTRL

Welcome to the 16 members of Project CENTRL's 31st Class who began their leadership journey on June 2nd at Wild Horse Pass. To read their bios and learn more about them, visit www.centrl.org/Class31. There are events coming up open to Alumni in Prescott, Show Low and the White Mountain Apache Reservation. Visit www.centrl.org/events for the full list and registration details.



GO For Launch Camp

Emilio Martinez

Imagine if an ordinary person could send something into outer space. Now imagine if 12 teens from every U.S. State could! Well, that's what's going to be happening this summer. Today, I will be telling you about a really awesome camp happening this summer. First, I will tell you about the camp, who's going, and what happens in the contest!

First for the camp, it is where the selected 4-H Members go to the Kennedy Space Center in Florida and we get to design a science experiment that will be sent to the International Space Station (ISS)! For example, some of the experiments that have already won are: seeing the differences of crystals growing in space, caterpillars metamorphosizing in space, magnets in space (this actually helps us learn about the moon's magnetic force), and seeing if plants know which way is up.

In case you were wondering, now let me tell you who will be creating these experiments. There will be 12 teens selected from every state aged 13-18. Each state is partnered with a few other states on a team. Arizona will be partnered with Indiana, Illinois, and Florida. The camp will be from Monday to Saturday and will be fully paid for by 4-H and its partners. It is a really great opportunity! It will also be a great opportunity to make friends/contacts in other states. And because we can remain in contact, we will get to talk about our experience and the contest.

Lastly, let me tell you about the contest. Whichever team designs the best science experiment will get to go to Houston, TX to see it launch to the ISS where astronauts can answer the scientific quandary that we have given them to work on. Winning and having the best experiment is not the only reward, though. The other reward of this is meeting people and getting to do science with them. The science of anything we want to know about... science in outer space!

Great benefits, fun, and learning, right? If you've made it this far, I hope you consider getting involved with this project, or 4-H in general. Today, I talked about Go For Launch Camp at the Kennedy Space Center in Florida, the participants, and about the contest. **Houston... this is the end of the transmission.**



Let's Celebrate National Farmers Market Week!

Marina Gallardo and Kaley Necessary, Program

Coordinators, SNAP-Ed



National Farmers Market Week is August 7-13, 2022. According to the Farmers Market Coalition, farmers markets provide many benefits to a community including stimulating local economies, increasing access to nutritious food, supporting healthy communities, preserving farmland, and promoting sustainability. One way to support local farmers is by attending a farmers market and engaging with the farmers who sell there! A list of farmers markets in Maricopa County can be found on page 23 of the Arizona Department of Agriculture Specialty Crop Guide. Farmers markets around the valley vary in the products they sell including crafts and handmade goods, prepared meals, pantry items, animal products, and of course, produce! Farmers markets and farm stands allow farmers to sell their produce directly to consumers. Some markets even have food trucks available for attendees to eat breakfast or lunch from a local vendor. Markets also provide customers with the freshest produce possible since the majority of markets require the food sold to be produced locally, decreasing the number of miles the food has traveled to get to the customer and ensuring all the produce sold is in season. Farmers markets are also a great place for customers to learn about the agricultural techniques and practices used by the farmers growing their food.

Did you know families can take advantage of different food benefits programs to help stretch their dollar at the farmers market? Most farmers markets commonly accept SNAP EBT (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Electronic Benefits Transfer) benefits, and some also participate in additional programs such as Double Up Food Bucks and the Arizona Farmers Market Nutrition Program (AZFMNP). The Double Up Food Bucks is a matching program that allows shoppers to buy double the fruits and veggies when paying with their SNAP EBT card. Shoppers get a two-for-one deal while supporting local farmers, it's a win-win! Double Up Food Bucks can also be redeemed at some grocery and corner stores, CSA's (Community Supported Agriculture) and farm stands. The AZFMNP allows qualifying Seniors and families participating in WIC (Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children) to pick up a coupon booklet at participating farmers markets to buy produce. The program is available each year starting on February 1st and coupons can be spent through November 15th. This August, celebrate



Associate Director's Cut

Dr. Ayman Mostafa

With Kai Umeda's retirement on June 30, after serving as interim Director for the last year, Dr. Ed Martin assumed the role of Interim Director of UArizona Cooperative Extension, and Maricopa County. I have been appointed the Associate Director for Maricopa County Cooperative Extension (MCCE) starting July 1, 2022. My full intention is to ensure MCCE continues to deliver world-class Extension Programming for the residents of Maricopa County and the State.

Despite the ups and downs of COVID-19, the resilience of our MCCE team is prevailing to provide the County and State residences with quality educational and research opportunities both in-person and virtually. MCCE team members are transitioning to the last phase of the [Cooperative Extension phased operational plan](#), with all [summer COVID-19 mitigation practices](#) and [COVID-19 Workplace Positive Case Protocol](#).

I am committed to plan strategically to make sure that MCCE continue and excel in both educational and applied research programming to improve lives, communities and economy of all our clientele in Maricopa County and the state of Arizona.

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