



Maricopa County Cooperative Extension

IMPROVING LIVES, COMMUNITIES,
AND THE ECONOMY

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Issue # 47

Pesticide Safety Education Program

Integrated Pesticide Management - Don't Let the Bad Bugs Bite



Jenny Weber, Assistant in Extension, Pesticide Safety Education Program

Due to the welcome but wacky weather we've been having, I've decided to offer Live Virtual Pesticide Applicator Pre-Certification Training Sessions this spring. I will create Zoom links for registration and sessions and will circulate the links through this listserv next week. In the meantime, I thought you might appreciate seeing the dates and timeslots so you can block those out on your calendar if you are interested in attending. Please see the information below, which might shift a bit on cell phone screen layouts.

These **live, unrecorded FREE** Zoom sessions are designed for people who are preparing for the National Pesticide Applicator Core Certification Exam for agricultural and structural pest control certifications. However, anyone who is interested in learning more about pesticide safety is welcome to attend.

Note about CEUs: Continuing education units (CEUs) will be offered through these sessions to Arizona certified agricultural and structural applicators and Pest Control Advisors who answer polling questions scattered throughout the sessions. Please make sure you log in using a device that correctly identifies you by first and last name and enables you to click on polling question dropdown options. Two CEUs will be available for each unique full 2-hour session.

Date: April 11-14, 2023.

Timeslots: 8:00am-10:00am and 11:30am-1:30pm

Click here for [Promotional Flyer and Registration Information](#)
Pre-Registration Click [HERE](#)

If you have any questions about the webinar, please contact Jenny Weber by [email](#).



Lice, Mites and Coyote Bites

The University of Arizona Pesticide Safety Education Program (PSEP) Coordinator is researching lice, mites, and coyote bites as she prepares to write study guides and exam questions for three new Arizona Department of Agriculture pesticide applicator certification categories.

The three certification categories are designed for pesticide applicators interested in purchasing,

using, or directly supervising the use of restricted use pesticide (RUP) products to manage pests on or around livestock and their housing areas.

While a few states developed study guides and began administering certification exams focusing on “agricultural animal pests” several years ago, this will be a new topic for Arizona. The PSEP Coordinator is excited about the introduction of the livestock certification categories and making materials as state specific as possible.

Two of the categories will provide guidance on how to safely use pesticide devices to manage livestock predators, such as coyotes and feral dogs. The third category will be much broader, focusing on how to safely and effectively use RUPs to manage insects, birds, rodents, noxious weeds, and other pests that negatively affect livestock and poultry health.

The PSEP Coordinator welcomes input from community members at any time and is interested in visiting with people involved in the ranching, farming, and dairy industries, and wild horse management programs.

You can reach Jennifer Weber by [email](#) or phone 602-827-8222 (landline without texting capabilities).

Smartscape Program

Kirti Mathura, Program Coordinator, Senior, Smartscape

The Smartscape program is gearing up for a busy season. Our basic Smartscape course will begin early February.

Following that, all current and past graduates of the Smartscape course have the opportunity to continue learning research-based best practices with Advanced Smartscape: *Irrigation* and our **new** Advanced Smartscape: *Urban Forest Management* courses.

With water sources of great concern and the urgent need to reduce heat island effects, such training is invaluable to landscape professionals. We are proud to offer these opportunities.



Arizona Center for Rural Leadership

Scott Koenig, Executive Director Project CENTRL

Arizona Center for Rural Leadership has been shaping our state since 1983 and we'll be celebrating 40 Years of Making a Difference for Rural Arizona Saturday 6/3/23 at Wild Horse Pass! The registration will be available soon at www.centrl.org/40 All are welcome to come and hear stories of impact from the past present and future.

Thanks for everyone who helped recruit for the future as we received 36 applications from 12 counties for Class 32. Interviews will take place with the non-profit board of directors of the Center in April and selections in May with the first seminar in June.

Before Class 31 graduates at the 40th Celebration, they will go to Washington, D.C. and Gettysburg, PA building upon all the skills they've learned over the past 9 months to put into practice at the federal level. Finally, they will present solutions to some of rural Arizona's most pressing issues at their final seminar in June.



Additional Opportunities

We'll be celebrating 40 Years of Making a Difference for Rural Arizona all of 2023 culminating with the **CENTRL Celebration 6/2/23** at Wild Horse Pass! Save the Date and Plan to join us!



Urban Ag/Beginner and Small-Scale Farmer Programs

Colleen Hanley, Assistant in Extension, Urban Agriculture Production, Small-Scale, and Beginning Farmer

The Urban Agriculture Production, Small-Scale, and Beginning Farmer Program has been busy prepping for spring on the People's Demonstration Farm! The team has been amending the soil and will soon set up our drip tape for each plot and do a big spring planting. We also welcomed on a new farm manager, Trixy Struck, who prior to joining us was one of the Phoenix Food Fellows.

The Program continues to see great participation in The Urban Ag Hour. March's Urban Ag Hour featured a talk on local seed production with Anita Thompson, and a presentation on roadmaps for local food in schools with Rachel Gomez-Acosta and Patty Emmert. Our next Urban Ag Hour will be hosted on April 26th and will feature a presentation on upscaling Indigenous agriculture by Dr. Michael Johnson and an overview of the NRCS EQIP Program with Phillip Jacquez. We will also be hosting an Urban Ag Field Day on April 27th at the Coldwater Coop in Avondale. The day will include an irrigation demonstration with Dr. Ed Martin and a farm tour with farmer Jhonny Flores, followed by a Coldwater catered networking lunch.

Along with event planning, we have also been busy visiting producers on farm and ranch visits, most recently partnering with Moonlighter Farms to start a new urban ag research project, planting trees at the Food Forest Cooperative, and checking out new infrastructure and milking equipment at a small dairy in Buckeye. To amplify all the program offerings, we built off our newsletter and launched an Instagram account... follow us @urbanandsmallagproduction!



6th Arizona School IPM Conference

Shakunthala Nair, Assistant in Extension, Community IPM Entomologist

The **6th Arizona School IPM Conference IN-PERSON** is on April 18th and 19th in Phoenix, at the Maricopa County Cooperative Extension Office, 4341 E. Broadway Rd. Phoenix AZ 85040.

If you prefer to hear speakers live in-person, enjoy lunch and interact with other participants, and get your CEUs without a quiz, this is the best option.

The ONLINE option will be offered from April 24th – May 31st, 2023.

If you prefer listening to talks at your convenience, and take a simple quiz to get your CEUs, this is the option for you. The online format makes it accessible from anywhere with an internet connection.

Click [HERE](#) for Registration, information and the schedule.

The Arizona School IPM Conference is a great opportunity for continuing education for all institutional staff engaged in operations, maintenance, turf and landscape, food service, health services and more, in schools, childcare, community colleges, public health, medical facilities, city parks and rec, turf and landscape and many other areas. 6 or 12 PMD/PUG/PUC CEUs will be available for license renewal.

For information about Herbicides click [HERE](#) for an excellent article.

For questions, call Shaku Nair at 602-827-8214 or email nairs@arizona.edu.



Agricultural Literacy & STEM Program

Taylor La Ravia, Assistant in Extension, Agricultural Literacy & STEM

The Agricultural Literacy & STEM program as had a busy start to the year. In February, fourteen teachers and six staff visited Yuma, Arizona to tour farms and other agricultural production facilities. The two days were packed with stops to showcase just how impressive Yuma agriculture is. The teachers visited the Yuma Agricultural Center where they were able to harvest their own lettuce and celery crops, saw the Keithly-Williams seed production and greenhouse, visited with Mark Kuechel from Kuechel Farms and learned about the citrus industry, left the hotel at 4:00am on Friday to visit the San Luis border and see the amount of agricultural workers that cross every day, visited the GreenGate Fresh lettuce packing facility, toured through the DatePac processing facility, and drove through the Five Rivers Feedyard. We ended the two-day event back at Extension, exhausted, but enriched.

The following week, the Ag Literacy & STEM program participated in the Health World Education festival in Scottsdale where 750+ second grade students learned about the many ways to be healthy. The Ag Literacy program taught a lesson and played a game where the students had to guess which items in their bag came from agriculture (blue jeans, bioplastic straw, football, bread, lettuce...)—they were all shocked to find out that all the items in their bag came from agriculture!



4-H Programs

Caroline Werkhoven, Assistant in Extension, 4-H Youth Development

The Maricopa County Fair (April 12-16) is rapidly approaching, and the 4-H Staff are ready! On Saturday, April 8th, we are hosting our annual 4-H General Projects Day. This is when our 4-H youth, who have been working hard all year long, get to show off what they have accomplished. Youth will have the opportunity to participate in “conference judging,” where they can talk with a judge, share what they have learned, discuss any struggles they had with their project, explain their project, and get some expert feedback. New for this year! Exhibitors can choose to sell their item(s).



All exhibits and awards will be on display in the Party Gras building, southwest corner of the Arizona State Fairgrounds, during the fair. Also, during the Fair, 4-H staff will host several activities for the public and our 4-H members and volunteers. Look for scavenger hunts, ladder ball, cake decorating & flower arranging competitions, and other activities. We would love to see you at the Maricopa County Fair!

<https://maricopacountyfair.org/entries-and-more>.



Eloy Dog Clinic Excites 4-H'ers

Cameron Graham (Vice President) and **Madison Graham** (Community Relations Officer), Queen Creek 4-H Dog Project

Arizona State 4-H Dog Committee hosted their second Dog Clinic in Eloy last month. There was a great turnout with plenty of dog/handler pairs ready to learn. The day's schedule consisted of: Agility, Trick Dog Training, Showmanship, and Rally/Obedience, with opportunities to get CGC (Canine Good Citizen) and Trick Dog

Certified. The atmosphere was friendly, and the teachers were very helpful. What's more, the community of Eloy expressed curiosity and support of the 4-H project by stopping by and watching the activities of the day. For many 4-H members this was their first time to learn and try these skills as a dog/handler pair. Instructors offered expert advice and some one-on-one coaching and fostered an environment of success and encouragement, skillfully instructing while keeping things fun. Many 4-H volunteers made this event possible, and we were grateful for their support. This was a full day event, and one of the most exciting parts of the day was the large

amount of CGC and Trick Dog Certification Assessments and success stories.

Overall, this event helped grow the 4-H Community in all aspects, allowing each handler to mature in their partnership with their dog and improve their skills. All the attendees agreed this was a top dog event!! We look forward to our next Clinic, and hope to see you there!



Above Left: Trick Dog Certification

Above Right: CGC Certification

Urban Horticulture Program

Michael Chamberland

Assistant Agent, ANR/ Urban Horticulture

The Master Gardener Program held our second annual Spring Plant Sale in March. Last year had been a test of concept for the Spring Sale. This year the sale was open to the public as well as to Master Gardeners. A wide variety of plants were available, from cacti to flowers and vegetable starts. Many plants were donated by Master Gardeners, while many more had been cultivated at Cooperative Extension with Master Gardener assistance. We saw over 100 customers. Our revenue from the sale was doubled over last years' Spring Sale.



Field Crops IPM Program

Dr. Ayman Mostafa, Area Programatic Agent
and Regional Specialist

The Field Crops IPM Program is conducting several experiments at MCCE and Maricopa Ag Center to study the efficacy of several compounds, number of them are new, on alfalfa weevil and aphids, the major pests of alfalfa in the regions. We also evaluate the resistance to some conventional insecticides to provide our growers and ag professionals with science-based and timely information to help their decision-making for managing these pests. The Program is preparing for our 9th Annual Workshop for Alfalfa and Forage Crops in Arizona. Speakers and presenters at this workshop will discuss issues related to the agronomic, water, economic and pest management of alfalfa and forage crops in Arizona and Southwest the US.



Associate Director's Cut

Dr. Ayman Mostafa

March 21 was the National Agriculture Day. It was great to spend the morning at the first Farm-City Breakfasts of 2023 in Mesa. A second Farm-City Breakfast was held in Buckeye the following day, and we had the third one in Phoenix on March 31. Farm-City Breakfasts are great opportunities for all community members to hear and engage with County Supervisors and local leaders on hot topics and Ag relevant issues. It was great to meet many of our Arizona farmers, elected officials, government



representatives and surrounding communities. Maricopa County Farm Bureau and University of Arizona Maricopa County Cooperative Extension are sponsoring these Farm-City Breakfasts across Maricopa County for over 30 years.

Our Maricopa County Cooperative Extension personnel are busy with variety of programming that continues to address the challenges and opportunities of county and state residences. The Master Gardener Program just wrapped up its second annual Spring Plant Sale. During last month the Agricultural Literacy & STEM program Had a tour for some Arizona teachers and staff in Yuma to have firsthand experience of farming and agricultural production in the area, as well as participated in the Health World Education festival in Scottsdale. The turf Program is dealing with the issue of herbicide damage, how can plants be saved after

herbicide damage, and choosing the right herbicide to avoid damage as possible. Beside its current courses, the Smartscape Program is providing advance training in areas of irrigation, urban forest management and reduce heat island effects. The Pesticide Safety Education Program provides live virtual pesticide applicator pre-certification training sessions this spring. One major function of these free Zoom sessions is preparing for the National Pesticide Applicator Core Certification Exam for agricultural and structural pest control certifications. The field Crops IPM Program is conducting various trial to test the efficacies of new and other compounding to manage pests in alfalfa, and also other materials that could enhance the soil properties and yield. The Urban Agriculture Production, Small-Scale and Beginning Farmer Program team is working hard to get the People's demonstration Farm ready for spring production, as well as continue running the successful monthly Urban Ag Hour, as well as planning to Field Day in April. The 4-H and Youth Development Program is gearing up for a variety of activities, and event during the spring. The commercial kitchen at MCCE is in its final stage, and we hope it'll be fully function early in the summer.

Please stop by and see what's new at the office. As always, thanks to everyone for their continued support of Maricopa County Cooperative Extension!

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