Report of Extension Activities

Summer 2002

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Prepared for the Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors

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by The University of Arizona Cooperative Extension, Santa Cruz County
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Agriculture and Natural Resources Programs

Plant Sciences

Program Identification and Planning:
Santa Cruz County Cooperative Extension has long been recognized as a leader in the local area for fact-based, timely and accurate information related to plant science. The two main program thrusts are urban horticulture and community forestry.

Program objectives:
The objectives for the plant science educational program have been established as follows.

1. To provide fact-based, accurate and timely information regarding the management of garden, landscapes and pests to home gardeners.

2. To develop, implement and manage a local volunteer program to help address identified plant and landscape related needs in the local community.

3. Increase awareness of urban and community forestry issues through work with the 2000 X 2000 Trees Foundation in Nogales, Arizona.

4. Identify key urban and community forestry projects and assist to secure community resources to implement them.

Program Implementation:
- Clientele reaches Cooperative Extension through a variety of channels, including walk-in, telephone, e-mail and community events. The primary mission of the horticulture program is to deliver fact-based, accurate and timely information to the general public.

- An urban horticultural training is conducted for community members each year featuring 14 three hour classes under the Master Gardener Program.

- This agent serves as Secretary/Treasurer of the 2000 X 2000 Trees Foundation. This is a local urban forestry group dedicated to urban and community forestry projects in Santa Cruz County. The group identifies tree-planting projects in the community and mobilizes the resources to implement them. In addition, there is a nursery that the Foundation manages at Nogales High School. Trees are grown out and donated for community tree planting projects.

Program Results:
- Nine members completed the Urban Horticulture Training class in 2002. The class is being held in Patagonia to serve the east county.

- Several plant disease diagnosis have occurred due to extreme drought conditions.
conditions.

- Community tree plantings were completed in the Nogales Skate Park was and at the wetlands next to the ballfield.

Range Livestock Production

Program Identification and Planning:
According to the latest profiles in the Arizona Agricultural Statistics (2000), the majority of agricultural cash receipts (89.4%) are derived from beef cow/calf production in Santa Cruz County. This segment of the local economy accounts for a $9.66 million direct impact and other crops account for $1.15 million in cash receipts. The majority of beef cow/calf production takes place on private, state or federal rangeland, with a small amount of irrigated pastureland utilized. Because of this profile, the majority of the education program is targeted and delivered towards beef cow/calf producers, land managers and their expressed needs. Both groups face extremely complex economic, political and social issues related to public policy, endangered species, habitat protection, sustainable livestock production, retaining open space and community values. A very critical component of the educational program is collaboration with other Extension professionals and agencies. These partnerships allow for improved programming, resources and coordinated efforts.

Program Objectives:
- Develop and implement a rangeland resource education program that focuses on delivering useful, science-based information to the clientele in cooperation with other Extension professionals and collaborators.

- Provide a forum for the basic understanding of the issues and challenges that natural resource managers and livestock producers face in the local area. Extend this education to diverse audiences.

- Establish rangeland resource management, livestock production and public policy education as the educational focus areas. Program to focus on the tools and opportunities available to livestock producers and land managers to better utilize and sustain natural resources and the environment.

Program Implementation:
- Communication and information exchange are the fundamental backbone of a successful Extension Program. This exchange takes place in a variety of forums, including newsletters, workshops, face-to-face interaction, meetings and community presentations. The Southeast Arizona Range and Livestock News is a quarterly newsletter that focuses on livestock production, rangeland management and the economics of rangeland livestock production in Southeast Arizona. This newsletter is a partnership with Kim McReynolds, Area Extension Agent, Natural Resources, Cochise, Graham and Greenlee Counties and Mike Schneider, Agriculture/Natural Resources Agent, Greenlee County.
Workshops and other training opportunities bring together groups of interested clientele to exchange information and learn more about a topic of interest to them or their operation.

One-on-one interaction with clientele is an important part of information exchange in the local area. In cooperation with the United States Department of Agriculture Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) and private landowners, range monitoring takes place “on the ground.”

Community meetings and presentations can serve to inform diverse audiences on current natural resource issues.

Research is an important component of learning. Through research, theories developed can be tested to prove or disprove their economic and environmental efficacy.

Results:

- Quarterly issues of the Southeast Arizona Range and Livestock News issued in February and April.
- Cattle Health Workshop held in Benson, focusing on cow/calf health, immunity and vaccinations.
- Conception to Consumer workshop held in Tucson. This workshop is the educational component of the Arizona Ranch to Rail program.
- Monitoring Utilization workshop to be held April 11, 2002 in Rio Rico for Forest Service and land managers.
- Helped to develop draft mission statement and work plan for the Santa Cruz NRCD.
- Serve as advisor to the Santa Cruz NRCD Board.
Focus Group: George Lineiro & Irene Ogata

Family and Youth Programs

Healthy Lifestyles

Program planning and objectives:
The Santa Cruz County border communities are rapidly changing binational, multicultural group that have serious health challenges as well as human potential and cultural assets to address these challenges. The College of Public Health and Cooperative Extension have formed a partnership to enable communities to identify health problems and needed interventions, mobilize community resources and promote healthy lifestyles and disease prevention programs. In this county, the partnership has provided resources to provide osteoporosis education and to provide leadership for Diabetes and Chronic Illness prevention in collaboration with local agencies to enhance healthy lifestyles in Santa Cruz County. Funding for this next year will provide a Cooperative Extension position specifically for grant writing for healthy lifestyle promotion and sustain ability of the Border Health SI initiative.

Implementation:

- Provided nutrition classes to Food Stamp recipients and assisted in Osteoporosis information.
- Continued to participate in developing collaborations with health providers, government officials and community groups and agencies to increase membership in the Special Action Group meetings.
- Facilitated the Community Action Training Seminars for the founding officers of the new Arizona Community Health Outreach Worker (AzCHOW) association to provide bilingual opportunities to improve skills and knowledge in team building and group process, conducting effective board meetings, public speaking, communication skills, leadership styles, issue identification and problem solving.

Impact/Results:

- Continued with the monthly Special Action Group meetings to develop an environment for change in community policies concerning diabetes and chronic illness prevention in Santa Cruz County. Twenty to thirty members of the community representing many agencies regularly participate in these meetings, usually held the 4th Wednesday of every month. The Special Action Group has narrowed their scope to a long term action to advance a broad scope infrastructure for developing, improving, and enhancing the public facilities to improve the health of Santa Cruz County. The short term goal of developing walking/biking trails was also decided upon for action needed in our community.
- Arranged quarterly meeting space, refreshments and presentation equipment organizational meeting with the 10 University of Arizona College of Public Health partners and 7 representatives of the Nogales community partners. (Carondolet Health Network, Mariposa Clinic and Southeast Arizona Area Health Education Center)
Kathleen Vandervoet, (SAG member and local newspaper editor) has prompted editorial
discussions regarding the need for bicycle and walking trails within the community. As a
result, a new monthly Community Health page has been added to the Nogales International. The first issue reported on the goals and mission of SAG and Border Health ¡SI! Future issues will have articles contributed by SAG members.

Two members of SAG have been appointed by Mayor Marco Lopez to participate in the Growing Smarter Comprehensive Plan Advisory Committee. Dean Fish, Santa Cruz County Cooperative Extension Director and Dina Sanchez, Carondelet Marketing Director will collaborate on that effort.

The SAG group has been selected by Planners Ink (advisors to the city for developing the comprehensive plan), to participate as the focus group for the Growing Smarter Plan. The focus group meeting was held May 1 with Irene Ogata of Planners Ink. She explained the seven elements of the Comprehensive Plan and invited SAG members to speak about bicycle and walking trails, exercise and recreation facilities and open space usage in our community. Highlights of the discussion centered on the strengths and weaknesses in our community; what condition and availability are the parks, recreation fields and facilities; are there sites and facilities accessible to wheelchairs, elderly and youth.

A celebration was held February 15th to award appreciation plaques to SAG and community members for contributing to the overall health of the community. These plaques were given “in appreciation of the promotion of healthy lifestyles in our community” to the following:

Yolie Carrillo - Promotora, Mariposa Clinic
Kelt Cooper - Superintendent, Nogales Unified School District #1
Suzanne David - Program Manager, Southeast Area Health Education Center
Anna Doan - Superintendent, Santa Cruz Elementary #28
Kelly Grekin - Special Projects Coordinator, Santa Cruz County Health Department
Cindy LaFaive - P.E. teacher, Mountain View Elementary School.
Marco Lopez - Mayor, City of Nogales
Mary Helen Maley- Member, 2000 X 2000 Advisory Board
H. Sue Nielsen - City Manager, City of Nogales
Rich Polheber- Sr. Vice President and CEO, Carondelet Health Network
Gloria Rosas - Promotora, Way of the Heart
Ila Tittlebaugh - Director of Nursing, Nogales Unified School District #1
Kathleen Vandervoet- Editor, Nogales International
United Church Village - In appreciation of the use of the meeting space for the past year.

Facilitated the Community Action Training Seminars for the founding officers of the Arizona Community Health Organization Worker to provide bilingual opportunities to improve skills and knowledge in team building and group process, conducting effective
Parenting

**Program planning and objectives:**
The underlying theme of Family and Youth Development programs in Cooperative Extension has been to enhance the quality of life for individuals, families and communities through education. An important component is with its experience in community-based parent education, access to research-based knowledge and the team of specialists for facilitating the networking and collaboration among organizations and agencies that serve families.

This year Santa Cruz County Cooperative Extension provided Family and Community program management for this county, Cochise and Graham counties. Entirely funded by Arizona Child Protective Services, CPS referrals as well as interested community members participate in the classes. A local family educator, Yolanda Huerta, is providing Parenting Skills classes to assist parents in positively interacting with their children, family members and community. The skills gained are hoped to reduce stressors within the family. Subject areas covered are applied in Your Changing Lifestyle and the Parenting curriculum in English and Spanish.

**Implementation:**
- Provide tools, training and opportunities for the Family Educator to conduct Parenting classes in Cochise, Graham and Santa Cruz County.
- Staff provided opportunities for CPS clients and other members of the community to participate in classes held in the office, schools, individual homes and other community agencies. Upon completion of the classes, graduation celebrations are held.
- Marketing of the program was by word of mouth, networking with other community agencies and groups, and the distribution of flyers and information at community fairs and door to door.

**Impact/Results:**
- Instructions were given on CPS paperwork and curriculum training were held bimonthly.
- Section Six CPS administrators and county educators meet quarterly to discuss program needs and concerns.
- Attended monthly coalition meetings in Patagonia and Nogales to increase visibility of local program.
- Advertised classes in the bi-weekly community newspaper.
- Weekly, day and evening classes are provided by educators for the ten week program, with 150 graduates the last six months.

4-H Leadership

**Program Planning and Objectives:**
Through 4-H Leadership, adults and youth develop meaningful relationships, build self-esteem and self-confidence, acquire knowledge and skills, improve decision-making abilities and beneficial attitudes towards self and others. Empower 4-H volunteers and members in
leadership skills through training and participation in local, state and national activities. This coming year in our county, Character Counts! will be expand with Victory with Honor training for athletic sports coaches.

Implementation:

- Provide opportunities for local club members and volunteers to participate in programs developed locally, state-wide and nationally.
- Write, edit and publish leadership information in the monthly 4-H newsletter.
- Provide training to leaders for marketing their programs by assisting in the writing of news articles for local newspaper.
- Linked project leaders with local resources for program implementation.
- Conducted 4-H Volunteer Certification leader training and club officer training.
- Informed community groups and schools of opportunities available statewide though 4-H.

Impact/Results:

- Bracker Elementary, Patagonia Elementary School and Little Red School are using 4-H curriculum and "Character Counts!" in their classes and after-school programs
- Contributed to ½ of the monthly production of the "Santa Cruz County 4-H News" newsletter.
- 136 members in the Santa Cruz County 4-H Club program.

Faculty and Staff

**Dean Fish, County Extension Director**  
Assistant Agent, Agriculture and Natural Resources

**Marilynn Johnson**  
Assistant Agent, Family and Youth Development

**Mercedes Fernandez**  
Administrative Assistant

**Gwen Wagner**  
Secretary (On-Call)

**Yolanda Huerta**
Parenting Educator

Sandra Romero
Secretary