



## Garfield County Extension Impacts

### Youth Programs

Garfield 4-H is reaching 150-300 elementary school children during its first year with after school programs in topics such as Eco Wonders, Wildlife, and an exciting new weather curriculum including a mobile laboratory designed to engage children in math and science at early ages. The program is offered in collaboration with the Parachute School District, Bea Whitmore Elementary, Williams Oil and Girl Scouts. Plans exist to include Rifle, Silt, New Castle, Glenwood Springs and Carbondale, funding permitting.

Traditional 4-H clubs work with 242 Garfield County youth. 4-H volunteer leaders donate almost 8,000 hours annually valued at \$150,100 of in-kind public contribution to keep 4-H supporting the youth of Garfield County. Youth learn life skills to help avoid risky behaviors. Research indicates 4-H youth get more “A”s in school and avoid drugs, alcohol and early pregnancy.

Garfield County Extension is collaborating with girl scouts on a grant to provide a program called “Challenge and Change: Challenge Yourself, Change the world,” for high school age girls in the county.

### Agriculture – Natural Resources Program

Ag and horticulture programs are focused on major issues of producer support, small acreage management, and smart plant/wise water landscaping support to the 80% growth experienced in Garfield County.

The Garfield County CSU Extension ANR program works closely with Vegetation Management, including weed control, on public and private lands. With grant support, the program developed and distributes weed identification calendars to 100-200 local residents.

During 2006-2007 Mr. McCarty worked with over 25 individual projects to ensure appropriate use of native plants and irrigation to meet county water conservation goals.

ANR analyzes 50-100 insect samples per year, providing identification and mitigation plans.

He provided direct education program for small acreage horse owners to learn good pasture and animal management practices.

He provided insect diagnostics and mitigation plans to fruit producers as well as homeowners for local cherry fruit fly infestation and boring insects.

**These efforts influenced savings of over \$250,000 in potential water, plant, and agriculture production losses.**

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In Garfield County today over 27% of population is under 18; over 35% of births out of wedlock are to 15-19 year olds; population growing 80% faster than the Colorado average. Youth and resources management programs are critical.