

San Luis Valley Area Extension Impacts



Agronomy Impacts

- 1500-2000 acres of hybrid canola seed crop production directly attributed to Extension work
- Introduction of new soft white wheat variety improving yields by \$210,000 over 15 years for \$3.1 million of added income for SLV wheat growers
- SLV ag agent organizes the Southern Rocky Mountain Ag Conference (formerly Potato/Grain Conference). Conference draws 700 grower days over a 4-day time span offering grain, alfalfa, and potato disease, fertility and crop management information.
- Additional grant funding enhances research at SLV - \$75,000 (2006) to investigate drip irrigation and \$83,000 for specific potato research.
- Specific 2007 field research trials that benefit all SLV Area growers include: barley variety trial, C89 barley, wheat variety trial, oat variety trial, alfalfa variety trial, biocontrol crops to enhance potato production, sunflower variety trial, wetting agent to improve alfalfa yield and quality

The SLV Gardening Club is locally directed and self-supporting, receiving input and technical assistance from CSU Extension. Seven educational programs were provided in 2007 on topics such as water wise landscaping, native plants, involvement in community landscaping, gardening in schools, extending the growing season and garden tours.

Family and Consumer Science

- Food Stamp Nutrition Education (FSNE) is a part-time effort SLV in cooperation with Social Services and Head Start. Basic nutrition classes are taught to 50-100 participants each year for those receiving food stamps in the counties.
- Healthy Habits Boys and Girls Club nutrition education is grant funded and provides education and healthy snacks to 900 youth in La Jara, Monte Vista, and Alamosa. The grant has been approved for 2007-08 in the amount of \$36,687.
- Healthy Habits group secured partner funding to provide Nutrition Education for the Alamosa Farmers' market from CSU Extension Dept of Food Science and Human Nutrition, a COPAN Live Well Alamosa Grant, a Colorado Health Foundation Grant and Valley Wide WIC, LLC. This collaboration provides for a part-time coordinator to deliver demonstrations and vouchers for WIC families in Rio Grande and Alamosa Counties to purchase fresh fruits and vegetables at the Farmers' Markets as was the original intent of the food security programs. Seniors families are included in the program for the first time. Two hundred senior families in Alamosa, Conejos, Costilla, Rio Grande and Saguache Counties received voucher booklets. During the 15 week Farmers' Market 3,915 samples and recipes were distributed and 6,584 vouchers were redeemed for healthy food purchases.

Youth Programs

- Conservation Camp in collaboration with Colorado Division of Wildlife, US Forest Service and NRCS. Fifty-seven campers with seven junior counselors and 7 adult counselors participated in this week-long camp for ages 8-13 to experience nature, learn more about the environment and each other.
- Nine 4-H state winners in poultry judging, horse public speaking, horse bowl.
- Forty-seven 4-H youth participated in clinics in horse level testing, horse project safety training for leaders.
- One SLV 4-H youth was selected in a competitive process to attend the National 4-H Conference. Only 8-12 4-H members are selected statewide.
- SLV 4-H serves 323 area youth in 45 clubs with the support of 100 actively involved adult volunteers. This is truly a community involvement project.
- Youth are involved in a wide range of projects. To name a few:
 - 362 Plants and Animals
 - 58 Communications
 - 56 Science and Technology
 - 51 Family and Consumer Sciences