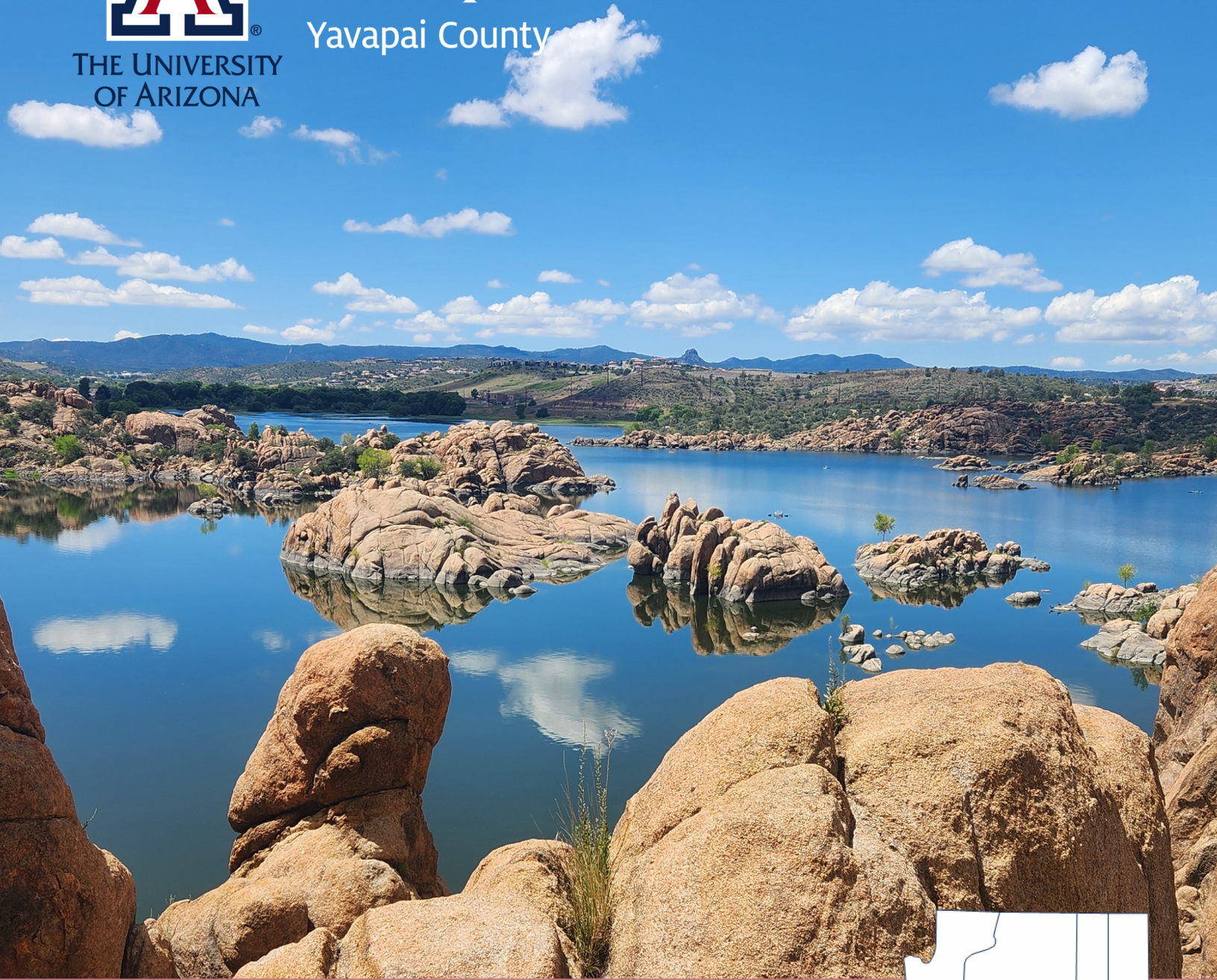


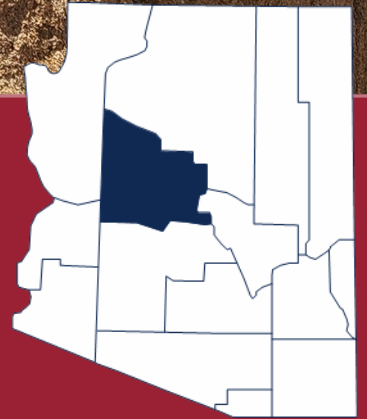


# Cooperative Extension

Yavapai County



## Yavapai County Cooperative Extension



Working together to expand human potential,  
explore new horizons and enrich life for all.

2024  
Annual Report

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## From the County Extension Director

Dear Stakeholder,

Welcome to the Yavapai County Cooperative Extension Annual Report, a description of the programs we offered and the impacts we made in 2024. I am often asked what Cooperative Extension is, and what we do, and truth is... a lot. Cooperative Extension is the service-oriented outreach arm of the University of Arizona, which provides low or usually no-cost education to stakeholders since 1914. We are referred to as "Cooperative" because we are funded by the federal, state, and county government in an effort to "Extend" knowledge from the University system to every county in the state. As we have for so many years, Yavapai County Cooperative Extension has three major programs: 4-H Youth Development, Agriculture & Natural Resources, and Family, Consumer & Health Sciences. These programs deliver a broad scope of services, from the transfer of new technologies to help farmers and ranchers become more profitable to reminding stakeholders the value of growing and preserving your own food.

While I feel like I say this every year, 2024 was another exciting one. For the third year in a row our team increased the number of stakeholders we served, providing direct education to over 19,000 Yavapai County residents. This includes nearly tripling our 4-H enrollment since 2022 and delivering STEM education to almost a thousand more kids than in 2023. Additionally, James 4-H Camp hosted guests from all over the state.

As usual, science-based horticultural education was delivered to over 7,000 people in 2024, led by the Yavapai County Master Gardeners and the Arizona Commercial Viticulture program. The new year also brought a whole new programmatic area. Cattle is kind of a big deal here in Yavapai County, and in 2024 we rolled out a brand new Livestock program to partner with our Range program that supports our ranchers by educating and monitoring allotments through the 3-Forest Monitoring Program. Be on the lookout in 2025 for the all-new Commercial Horticulture program, which will support new and experienced farmers across the county.

If you're still not convinced that we serve a wide range of stakeholders, look no further than our Nutrition & Physical Activity programming, which includes SNAP-Education and the Diabetes Prevention Program or our Food Safety Program, which helps to ensure that county restaurants are educated on proper food preparation protocols. What's more, our Early Childhood Health & Safety education supports our early childcare sites by providing assessments and training for Yavapai County's youngest stakeholders and their caregivers. These programs educate on healthy living and contribute to the overall health of the county.

Additionally, I would be remiss if I didn't acknowledge the tireless efforts of our administrative staff, who see everything before it happens and keep the ship afloat at all times.

While it is no secret that our faculty and staff provide Yavapai County with mountains of programming, I have no doubt that it would not be possible if not for local volunteers. Between Master Gardeners, 4-H leaders and volunteers, Food Safety Industry Council members, and our all-star Advisory Board, almost 18,000 hours of service was performed on behalf of Yavapai County Cooperative Extension and I have deep appreciation for all of them.

Lastly, Cooperative Extension truly appreciates the funding, facilities, and services provided by the Yavapai County Board of Supervisors. We will continue to leverage those contributions to deliver the high-quality programming that the stakeholders have come to expect. It is an exciting time to work with Yavapai County Cooperative Extension, and I look forward to continuing our tradition of delivering quality science-based service to our stakeholders.

Sincerely,



Matt Halldorson  
County Extension Director  
Associate Agent, Agriculture and Natural Resources





# Yavapai County Cooperative Extension

## Faculty



**Matt Halldorson, MS**

Yavapai County Extension Director  
Associate Agent, Agriculture and Natural Resources  
mmhalldorson@arizona.edu



**Katie Hazlewood, MS**

Assistant Agent, Livestock  
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**Hope Wilson, MPH, RDN**

Area Associate Agent, Family, Consumer,  
and Health Sciences  
hopewilson@arizona.edu



**Andrew Brischke**

Mohave County Extension Director  
Area Associate Agent, Agriculture & Natural Resources  
brischke@cals.arizona.edu

# Yavapai County Cooperative Extension Staff



## Program Staff

**Mary Barnes**, Program Coordinator, Sr., Agriculture and Natural Resources & Master Gardener Programs, [barnesm@arizona.edu](mailto:barnesm@arizona.edu)

**Michelle Buenafe**, Child Care Health Consultant, Family, Consumer, and Health Sciences

**Margaret Carroll**, Assistant in Extension, 4-H Camping Programs, [mcarroll4@email.arizona.edu](mailto:mcarroll4@email.arizona.edu)

**Dixie Clinkenbeard**, Child Care Health Consultant, Family, Consumer, and Health Sciences, [clinkenbeard@arizona.edu](mailto:clinkenbeard@arizona.edu)

**Bree Daugherty**, Mohave County Program Coordinator, Sr. - AZ Health Zone/SNAP-ED, [daugherty@arizona.edu](mailto:daugherty@arizona.edu)

**Stacy DeVeau**, Program Coordinator, Sr., 4-H Youth Development STEM Programs, [sdeveau@arizona.edu](mailto:sdeveau@arizona.edu)

**Geovani Donaldson**, Instructional Specialist, AZ Health Zone/SNAP-ED, [gdonaldson1@arizona.edu](mailto:gdonaldson1@arizona.edu)

**Iris Higgins**, Child Care Health Consultant, Family, Consumer, and Health Sciences, [irishiggins@arizona.edu](mailto:irishiggins@arizona.edu)

**Nicole Lund**, Community Outreach Professional, AZ Health Zone/SNAP-ED, [nmlund@arizona.edu](mailto:nmlund@arizona.edu)

**Caleb Miller**, Mohave County Research Specialist - Rangeland Management, [calebnilesmliller@arizona.edu](mailto:calebnilesmliller@arizona.edu)

**Natalie Olson**, 4-H Assistant in Extension, [nolson1@arizona.edu](mailto:nolson1@arizona.edu)

**Tracey Waters**, Program Coordinator, Food Safety, [twaters@arizona.edu](mailto:twaters@arizona.edu)

## Administrative Staff

**Domineque Arias**, Administrative Assistant

**Pamela Denney**, Coordinator, Finance and Administration, [pdenney@arizona.edu](mailto:pdenney@arizona.edu)

**Lisa Gerber**, Coordinator, Finance and Administration, [lgerber@arizona.edu](mailto:lgerber@arizona.edu)

**Karen Pizzuto**, Manager, Finance and Administration

**Sierra Sheeks**, Administrative Assistant, [ssheeks@arizona.edu](mailto:ssheeks@arizona.edu)

## On-Call Staff

**Pamela Edwards**, Administrative Assistant, [edwards8@arizona.edu](mailto:edwards8@arizona.edu)



## Yavapai County Cooperative Extension Office Locations

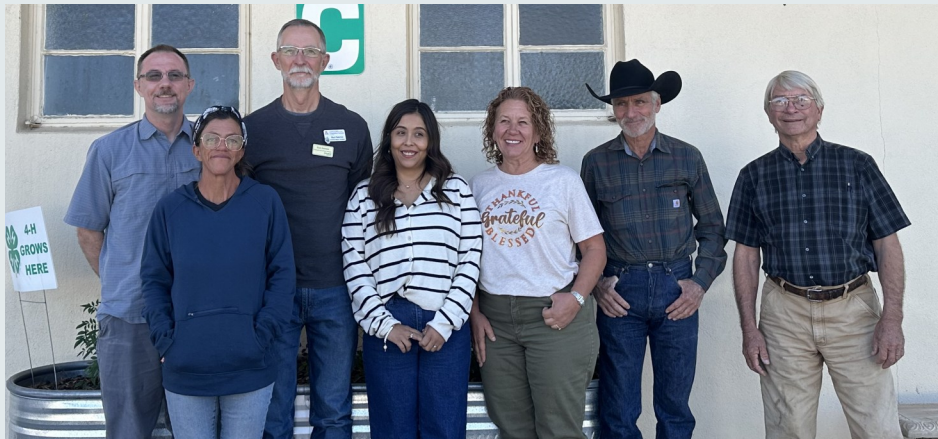


**Prescott Office**  
840 Rodeo Drive, Bldg. C  
Prescott, AZ 86305  
928-445-6590



**Camp Verde Office**  
2830 Commonwealth Drive #103  
Camp Verde, AZ 86322  
928-554-8990

## Yavapai County Cooperative Extension Advisory Board Members 2024-2025



**Chad Hetherwick**, Food Safety/Nutrition, **Shanti Rade**, Small Agriculture Producer, **Rich Peterson**, Agriculture,  
**Laura Lopez**, Child and Family Support Services, **Angela Teskey-Peterson**, Chair, 4-H Leader/Rancher,  
**Gail Steiger**, Co-Chair, Rancher, **Chip Norton**, Viticulture, Agriculture

## Yavapai County Board of Supervisors

**Craig L. Brown**, Chairman, District 4

**Donna G. Michaels**, Ph.D., Vice-Chair, District 3

**Harry B. Oberg**, District 1

**James Gregory**, District 2

**Mary Mallory**, District 5

# 4-H Youth Development

**NATALIE OLSON**

 Assistant in Extension, 4-H Youth Development, [nolson1@arizona.edu](mailto:nolson1@arizona.edu)

**Yavapai County 4-H** engages youth ages 5-18 in the participation of high-quality positive learning activities that promote the exploration of leadership, communication, community service, healthy living, and civic engagement. 4-H helps develop competent, caring, and actively engaged citizens who strengthen our community. Through research-based curriculum and university ties, 4-H opens a world of possibilities to youth and their families who want to explore their spark.

Project opportunities in Yavapai County 4-H include gardening, small stock animals, large stock animals, cake decorating, public speaking, bee keeping, sewing/weaving, blacksmithing, horses, robotics, rocketry, shooting sports, entomology, woodworking, photography, veterinarian science, entrepreneurship and more! Visit <https://extension.arizona.edu/4h/yavapai> to enroll, volunteer or donate.



Lonesome Valley Wrangler 4-H members sharing their rabbits at the Open House event during the 2024 Yavapai Fair.



Ash Fork Sunset 4-H members placing at the creed competition during the 2024 Arizona National Live-stock Show.

### *Because of the Yavapai 4-H Program...*

- Teen members earned the opportunity and were invited to attend National 4-H events such as the Ignite Summit in DC, National 4-H Congress in Atlanta, and the Western Regional Roundup in Denver.
- A Lego Robotics team was formed and registered through FIRST LEGO League, allowing members to participate in STEM-based robotic competitions across the state.
- 66 members attended MoYava at the James 4-H Camp, receiving over \$3,000 in Tractor Supply and Lane Trust scholarship funding.
- An AmeriCorps Outreach Assistant was hired to provide 300 hours of STEM and agriculture education to the community.

### *4-H Youth Development Staff:*

**Natalie Olson**, 4-H Assistant in Extension, [nolson1@arizona.edu](mailto:nolson1@arizona.edu)

**Stacy DeVeau**, Program Coordinator, Sr., 4-H Youth Development STEM Programs, [sdeveau@arizona.edu](mailto:sdeveau@arizona.edu)

**Margaret Carroll**, Assistant in Extension, 4-H Camping Programs, [mc Carroll4@email.arizona.edu](mailto:mc Carroll4@email.arizona.edu)

## 2024– By The Numbers

- **370** 4-H enrolled youth members, nearly tripled from 2022.
- **71** 4-H volunteers reported **5112** hours.
- **98** school visits reaching over **2500** students.
- **5467** residents served through community outreach events and collaborative educational programs.



# James 4-H Camp

**MARGARET CARROLL**

Assistant in Extension, 4-H Camping Programs  
mcarroll4@email.arizona.edu

## The Harold and Mitzie James 4-H Camp and Outdoor Learning Center

(James 4-H Camp) located in Yavapai County, is a premier American Camp Association (ACA) accredited residential camp at the heart of the Arizona 4-H program. What makes camp so special? It is the almost 1400 4-H members, and guests served in 2024. They come to Mingus Mountain for a summer camp experience, retreats, weddings, outdoor environmental education, and for the sheer joy of being in nature.

Thanks to the generosity of local philanthropists, the camp is in a unique position to address the infrastructure needs of a 75-year-old facility. In 2024, the off-the-grid diesel-generated power system was replaced by a new solar installation housed in and on the new pavilion, providing electrical power to the entire camp property 24/7. This has led to the upgrade and replacement of outdated electrical circuits and wiring throughout the camp property. A new basketball court was also poured. The capacity of the camp has been expanded with the addition of new youth lodging. We are currently in the middle of a three-year funding cycle making these improvements possible.

2025 projects will include identifying and digging a second well, renovations to the bathhouse to replace old partitions, kitchen/dining hall improvements, staff housing and ropes course upgrades.



90 solar panels installed on the new pavilion.



Campers study the creek.

## 2024– By The Numbers

- In 2024, the James 4-H Camp served **1389** guests.
- Total user days totaled **150 days** or **71%** occupancy.
- Between Fall of 2023 and December 2024, **\$551,646.17** was invested in new construction/renovations/upgrades at the James 4-H Camp.

# Nutrition & Physical Activity

Area Associate Agent, Family, Consumer, and Health Sciences, [hopewilson@arizona.edu](mailto:hopewilson@arizona.edu)

**Yavapai County Cooperative Extension offers** a variety of nutrition and physical activity programs designed to improve the health and well-being of Yavapai County residents across their lifespan.

The goal of AZ Health Zone, Arizona's Supplemental Nutrition Assistant Program Education (SNAP-Ed) Program, is to support Arizona families with limited resources to achieve wellness by making healthy choices and staying active. Yavapai County Cooperative Extension's (YCCE) AZ Health Zone programming focuses on food systems strategies to increase access and consumption of healthy foods; and early care and education (ECE) strategies that promote nutrition and physical activity in ECE settings including training for childcare providers and promoting outdoor activities for families with initiatives like Nature Niños.

YCCE also offers the National Diabetes Prevention Program (DPP), a year-long lifestyle change program proven to help people with prediabetes prevent or delay development of type 2 diabetes.



Senior housing residents enjoyed a food demonstration and nutrition education.



Nicole Lund in a preschool classroom talking about orange fruits and vegetables from *Color Me Healthy*.

## Family Consumer Health Sciences Staff:

**Geovani Donaldson**, Instructional Specialist, SNAP-ED, [gdonaldson1@arizona.edu](mailto:gdonaldson1@arizona.edu)

**Nicole Lund**, Community Outreach Professional, AZ Health Zone/SNAP-ED, [nmlund@arizona.edu](mailto:nmlund@arizona.edu)

## 2024 – By The Numbers

- **1762** children and caregivers attended the **12** monthly Nature Niños events.
- **88%** of caregivers increased their confidence in spending time outdoors with their children.
- **88%** of caregivers were more likely to spend time in nature with their family.
- Trained staff at **2** libraries to deliver *Color Me Healthy*, a nutrition curriculum for preschool-aged children, as part of story time.
- **2** cohorts participated in the year-long Diabetes Prevention Program.
- DPP participants lost an average of **4.73%** of their starting body weight.
- Installed **5** new educational gardens.
- **92%** of adults felt more confident about growing their own food.
- **88%** of adults were motivated to eat more fruits and vegetables.



# Food Safety

**HOPE WILSON**

Area Associate Agent, Family, Consumer, and Health Sciences, [hopewilson@arizona.edu](mailto:hopewilson@arizona.edu)

**Yavapai County Cooperative Extension** (YCCE) provides food safety education and technical assistance to licensed food establishments, community members that want to start a food business, farmers markets and consumers in Yavapai County.

The Yavapai County Food Safety Partnership, established in 1999, is comprised of the Environmental Health Unit of Yavapai County Community Health Services (YCCHS) and YCCE. YCCHS is responsible for food establishment licensing and regulations. YCCE provides research-based resources, expertise, and education as part of this partnership. Preventing foodborne illness and operating a commercial kitchen requires comprehensive knowledge and understanding of food safety and sanitation practices. Persons in charge or managers of food service operations are required by law to be certified in food handling and safe sanitation.



Hope Wilson presenting a home canning demonstration in Prescott.

YCCE Food Protection Manager Training delivers comprehensive food safety information designed to help participants pass the Food Protection Manager Certification Exam. This 6-hour training is offered virtually and in-person monthly in Yavapai County. YCCE also coordinates the Yavapai County Food Safety Industry Council (FSIC) in partnership with YCCHS. This advisory body is made up of thirteen members appointed by the Yavapai County Board of Supervisors, ten of whom are industry representatives and three community representatives at large. YCCE and YCCHS serve in ex-officio capacity.

## *Food Safety Staff:*

**Tracey Waters**, Program Coordinator, Food Safety Education, [twaters@arizona.edu](mailto:twaters@arizona.edu)

**Bree Daugherty**, Mohave County Program Coordinator, Sr. - AZ Health Zone,

[daugherty@arizona.edu](mailto:daugherty@arizona.edu)

## 2024 – By The Numbers

- The Food Protection Manager training was offered in Yavapai County **14** times (6 virtual and 8 in-person).
- **114** participants attended the Food Protection Manager trainings (17 attended the live virtual and 97 attended the in-person training held in Prescott).
- **91%** of participants passed the certification exam.
- The FSIC met **2** times to conduct business to identify and address food safety issues in Yavapai
- **253** of eligible licensed food establishments in Yavapai County received the Golden Plate Award.
- **75%** of home food preservation participants increased their knowledge about safely canning food.

## Early Childhood Health & Safety

**HOPE WILSON**

Area Associate Agent, Family, Consumer, and Health Sciences, [hopewilson@arizona.edu](mailto:hopewilson@arizona.edu)

**Early childhood** is a critical time in a child's development. Early care and education (ECE) professionals play an important role in promoting young children's early brain development, health, and well-being.

Child Care Health Consultants (CCHCs) provide training and technical assistance to ECE professionals at child care centers, preschools, and family child care homes to increase knowledge and implementation of health and safety best practices. Yavapai County Cooperative Extension (YCCE) is funded to provide Child Care Health Consultation through an intergovernmental agreement with the Arizona Early Childhood Development and Health Board, better known as First Things First.

Michelle Buenafe left her position in May and Dixie Clinkenbeard was hired part-time in October. Iris Higgins was promoted from CCHC to CCHC Supervisor in August. Iris, Michelle, and Dixie provided services to the 40 child care sites enrolled in Quality First in the Yavapai Region. Quality First is Arizona's Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS) which provides support to improve the quality of child care.



Iris Higgins teaching Yoga in the Classroom to child care providers.

### New program for 2024: Financial Literacy

- ◆ Offered Financial Literacy workshops 11 times, reaching a total of 111 participants.
- ◆ Financial Literacy program coordinator partnered with CCHC to reach childcare providers.
- ◆ Financial literacy programming was also offered at sites that reach other audiences including recovery centers, the Juvenile Justice Center, and community centers.

### Early Childhood Health & Safety Staff:

**Michelle Buenafe**, Child Care Health Consultant, Family, Consumer, and Health Sciences

**Dixie Clinkenbeard**, Child Care Health Consultant, Family, Consumer, and Health Sciences, [clinkenbeard@arizona.edu](mailto:clinkenbeard@arizona.edu)

**Iris Higgins**, Child Care Health Consultant Supervisor, Family, Consumer, and Health Sciences, [irishiggins@arizona.edu](mailto:irishiggins@arizona.edu)

### 2024– By The Numbers

- CCHCs conducted **67** trainings reaching **354** childcare professionals serving **1175** children.
- Conducted **75** hands on health demonstrations with children at Quality First sites.
- Distributed **481** educational materials and training reinforcement items to centers.
- Completed **9** childcare sites' health and safety assessments/checklists.
- Completed **9** childcare sites' action plans to meet health and safety goals.
- Completed **49** childcare site observations.



## Arizona Commercial Viticulture

**Between big economic impact** (\$351 million in economic output) and low water use (1.3 acre-feet per acre), wine and the grapes that make it have become an important player for Arizona agriculture. Because of this, the University of Arizona is committed to providing education and applied research to support the Arizona wine industry.

In 2024, Cooperative Extension's Commercial Viticulture program provided education for grape growers in Yavapai County and throughout the state, focusing on water management, cover cropping, integrated pest management, vineyard sampling and scouting.

The program was also able to secure Arizona Department of Agriculture Specialty Crop Block Grant funding to research the use of cover cropping in order to mitigate erosion, control canopy growth, exclude weeds, and improve soil health. Results of this research will be disseminated to stakeholders as the project progresses.

Once again, the program ended the year by hosting the annual Arizona Viticulture Symposium & Growing Season in Review Workshop, where subject matter experts presented and industry members gathered to discuss the challenges and successes of the 2024 vintage.

### Because of the UA Viticulture...

- A commercial viticulture needs assessment was published to identify grower priorities.
- University of Arizona faculty and staff from multiple disciplines supported AZ growers.
- Integrated Pest Management Workshops were held in all three American Viticultural Areas in Arizona, including the Verde Valley
- Arizona Wine Growers from across the state were brought together to learn from subject matter experts
- 2 statewide industry events were held to identify and support the needs of growers.



Quantifying water stress using a pressure "bomb" helps growers properly manage vine water requirements.

## 2024– By The Numbers

- ♦ **285** Stakeholders were served with direct education.
- ♦ **25** vineyard visits were conducted to support Arizona Growers.
- ♦ **80%** of growers surveyed said they are considering making a change in their management practices to incorporate something they learned from UA Extension.
- ♦ **100%** of stakeholders who attended the Vineyard Integrated Pest Management workshop said they would likely attend another.
- ♦ Average reported increase in subject matter knowledge by Viticulture Symposium attendees:

Soil Health **(44%)**

IPM **(54%)**

Pathology **(66%)**

Wine Industry's Impact on Tourism **(42%)**

# Consumer Horticulture

Yavapai County Extension Director,  
Associate Agent, Agriculture and Natural  
Resources, mmhalldorson@arizona.edu

## Propelled by the extraordinary participation and impact of the Master Gardeners,

consumer horticulture education in Yavapai County supports the community by teaching stakeholders to grow and manage their plants. Serving the community since 1972, the Master Gardener Program enlists engaged citizens to become valuable volunteers who in turn support the community by sharing science-based horticulture practices. These activities include staffing horticulture help desks in Prescott and Camp Verde, giving talks to the public, staffing information tables at public events, and working with 16 non-profits such as museums, schools, community gardens, and city/town landscapes. Several additional formal training sessions were available to the general public.



A powerful and effective example of this service is the Master Gardener Speaker's Bureau, which delivered an impressive 88 presentations, reaching over 1,200 community members throughout the county.

Another highlight is the Native and Naturalized Plant Database, created and led by Master Gardener Sue Smith, which now has a total of 1935 Yavapai County plants and counting. The benefits of this database are not limited to Yavapai County stakeholders alone, as it provides intuitive, easily accessible information which is crucial to land managers in Yavapai County and beyond.

For the second year in a row, a Zoom-based Home Horticulture class was held in the fall, allowing residents across the county to learn science-based gardening techniques from the comfort of their own homes and without having a volunteer commitment.

Our first Propagation Workshop was conducted in April, where 31 attendees benefitted from hands-on exercises on seed propagation, plant dividing, stem propagation and apple tree grafting.

For home orchard enthusiasts, pruning workshops were conducted throughout the county to provide stakeholders with education related to tree care and maintenance. Fruit tree demonstrations were conducted at orchards in Camp Verde and Prescott, followed by an opportunity for community members to gain "hands-on" experience pruning trees at the Orme School.

The program also provides numerous educational publications via <https://extension.arizona.edu/local-offices/yavapai-county/yavapai-gardening> and <https://extension.arizona.edu/local-offices/yavapai-county/yavapai-county-natural-resources>

### *Agriculture and Natural Resources Staff:*

Mary Barnes, Program Coordinator, Sr., ANR & Master Gardener Programs, barnesm@arizona.edu

## 2024– By The Numbers

- ♦ **178** Master Gardeners reported **12,767** volunteer hours of service to Yavapai County.
- ♦ **33** Master Gardeners staffed **2** Help Desks, processing **1105** contacts.
- ♦ **3111** residents received horticulture information at events including Yavapai County Fair, community plant sales, festivals and Farmers' Markets in Prescott, Camp Verde, and Sedona.
- ♦ **88** Speakers' Bureau presentations were given to a total of **1269** attendees.



# Livestock Program

**KATIE HAZLEWOOD**

 Assistant Livestock Agent, Agriculture and  
 Natural Resources, khaz@arizona.edu

**The Yavapai County Livestock Program** promotes education to Yavapai County livestock producers to enhance their productivity and profitability using best management practices. Livestock account for 65% of agriculture sales in Yavapai county (USDA). Cattle are the predominant livestock commodity in the area. According to the latest Census of Agriculture, in Yavapai County there are 245 farms with cattle and calves in inventory resulting in over 35,000 head (USDA). In sales, cattle and calves account for \$17.7 million into the Yavapai County economy. These are predominantly beef cow/calf operations operating their herds on federally owned rangelands. In addition, small livestock and poultry product numbers have increased in the last few years. Through a county-wide needs assessment, it was determined operations included 71% cattle, 10% sheep, 38% goats, and 29% other (poultry, rabbits, and cavy were listed).


 November 2024, Hands-On Artificial Insemination  
 Clinic, V-V Experiment Station.

The introduction of the Yavapai County Livestock Program in 2024 started with creating contacts and building relationships with stakeholders and industry groups around the county. It was determined through the needs assessment, the main areas of concern for producers were operations management, herd health, and rangeland management. These results and advice from stakeholders

and industry partners have directed the start of planning and programming for the upcoming years.



April 2024, Prescott Range Livestock Workshop.

## *Because of the UA Agent and Specialist support...*

- 1 official and 1 unofficial ALIRT (Arizona Livestock Incident Response Team) cases were identified and solved in collaboration with the AZ Department of Agriculture
- Partnerships with many businesses and industry organizations have been created to support the Yavapai County Livestock Program

## 2024– By The Numbers

- Education was provided one-on-one by responding to **30 calls/emails, 3 online inquiries, and 19 site visits.**
- **2 Hands-On Artificial Insemination Clinics** taught AI principles to **21 producers** from **11 counties.**
- **44 producers** attended the Range Livestock Workshop in Prescott.
- In Skull Valley, **20 producers** participated in the Maximizing Value: Range and Livestock Workshop .
- **22 producers** were certified/re-certified for Beef Quality Assurance (BQA) for a total of **133 active certifications** in the county

# Rangeland

**ANDREW BRISCHKE**

Area Associate Agent, Agriculture & Natural Resources , brischke@cals.arizona.edu

## This year has seen a successful continuation of the Three-Forest Monitoring Agreement

as it entered its second year of implementation since its inception in 2022. The monitoring has not only produced accurate and scientific data, but also acted as a catalyst to promote positive relationships between all stakeholders involved.

With our partnerships with Prescott National Forest (PNF) and Arizona Association of Conservation Districts (AACD), UA Extension has been able to provide hands-on education opportunities to ranchers both through participation in the monitoring and follow-up meetings. These meetings provide a time to discuss the data collected, how it should be interpreted, and how to implement it into management.

The importance of the collaboration in this program can not be understated. To have ranchers, PNF, AACD, and Extension all at the table discussing how to manage the land using the best available practices is a success in itself. The mission of the agreement and the memorandum of understanding that followed it is to maintain trust and build relationships through monitoring, and so far that expectation has been met or exceeded given the feedback we have received from our partners.



Caleb Miller searching for monitoring site with AACD personnel on Prescott National Forest.

Photo courtesy of Sarah James



Range monitoring on Tank Creek allotment.

Photo courtesy of Caleb Miller.

### *Rangeland Staff:*

Caleb Miller, Research Specialist - Rangeland Management, calebnilesmiller@arizona.edu

## 2024– By The Numbers

- **70** sites on **20** PNF grazing allotments were sampled.
- Ranchers participated in **77%** of the trend monitoring sites.



# Financials

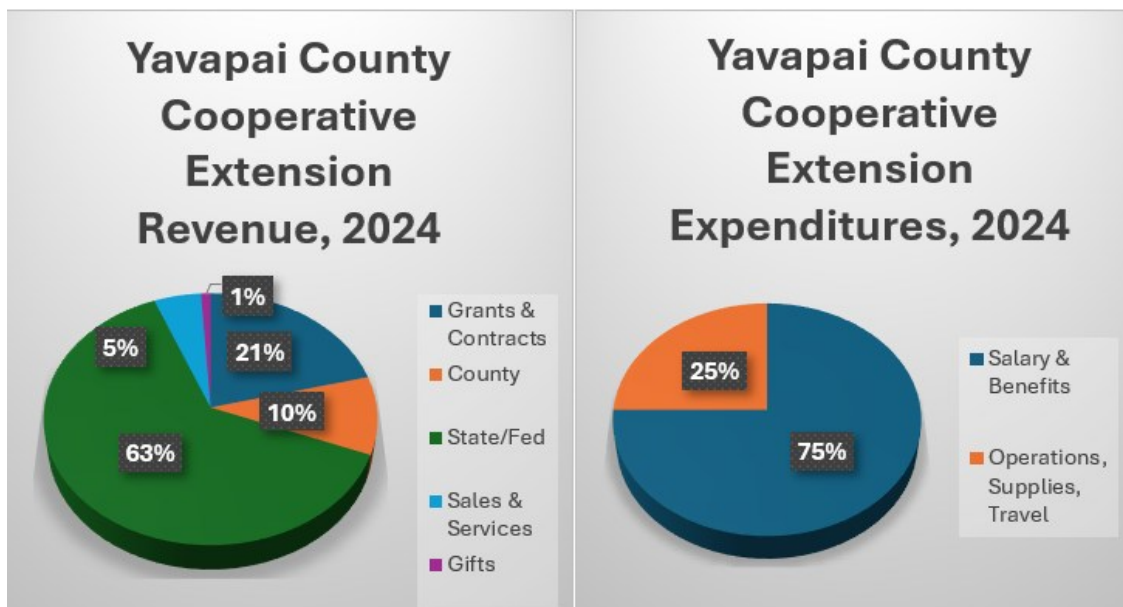
## The following is a summary of revenue and expenses for the Yavapai County Cooperative Extension.

The University of Arizona is a Land Grant university; therefore, we operate under ARS Title 3-Agriculture and are financially supported by the Smith-Lever Act of 1914. Yavapai County Cooperative Extension operates with County, State, and Federal funds. Additionally, our extension staff and agents are actively involved in seeking and applying for grants and alternative funding solutions, which help to further the mission of offering solutions needed to solve real world problems for our community. And with tremendous support, Yavapai County Cooperative Extension maintains two offices, one on the Prescott Rodeo Grounds and the other in Camp Verde, which are graciously provided by Yavapai County Government.

Yavapai County Cooperative Extension offers programs which involve Agriculture and Natural Resources, Family Consumer Health Sciences, and 4-H Youth Development. Our goal is to support our community with these programs and maintain relationships with open communication from our community to build on our successes and failures. We are grateful for the support through our volunteers as well as through funding sources and we look forward to providing support to our community through education.

Thank you for your support!

Below are charts of our Extension Revenues and Expenditures:



### Administrative Staff:

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**Sierra Sheeks**, Administrative Assistant, [ssheeks@arizona.edu](mailto:ssheeks@arizona.edu)

## Looking Ahead...

*More Good Things to Come in 2025!*

### New Leadership



The University of Arizona Cooperative Extension is pleased to announce the hiring of Michael Pierce as the new Assistant in Extension for Commercial Horticulture and Food Systems. In this role, Michael will work closely with Yavapai County's farmers to provide research-based guidance, educational programming, and resources to support and strengthen agricultural operations in the region.



Yavapai County Cooperative Extension is excited to announce the hiring of Phillip Peek as the new Regional Business Manager for Yavapai and Mohave County Cooperative Extensions. Phillip is an experienced administrator and brings to U of A years of experience in higher education and legal services. He holds a master's Degree in management and leadership and has obtained several professional certifications.

### Future Position

***Assistant in Extension, Agriculture & Natural Resources Agent-Range Management***

*The Assistant in Extension will focus on creating and supervising community outreach programs, providing leadership in the development and implementation of science-based educational programming in rangeland management. This position will be based in our Camp Verde office.*

### Monthly Newsletter

#### Yavapai County Extension Connection

Stay up to date on all things Yavapai County Extension by subscribing to our monthly newsletter.



### Emerging Opportunities

- ♦ *Yavapai County Vol-a-palooza*
- ♦ *Livestock Basics Workshop Series*
- ♦ *Home Canning Classes*
- ♦ *In-Person Food Protection Manager Certification Classes in Cottonwood*
- ♦ *Farm to Early Childhood Education*
- ♦ *Value-Added Food Production Workshop*
- ♦ *Commercial Horticulture Business Series*
- ♦ *Farm-to-School Opportunities*

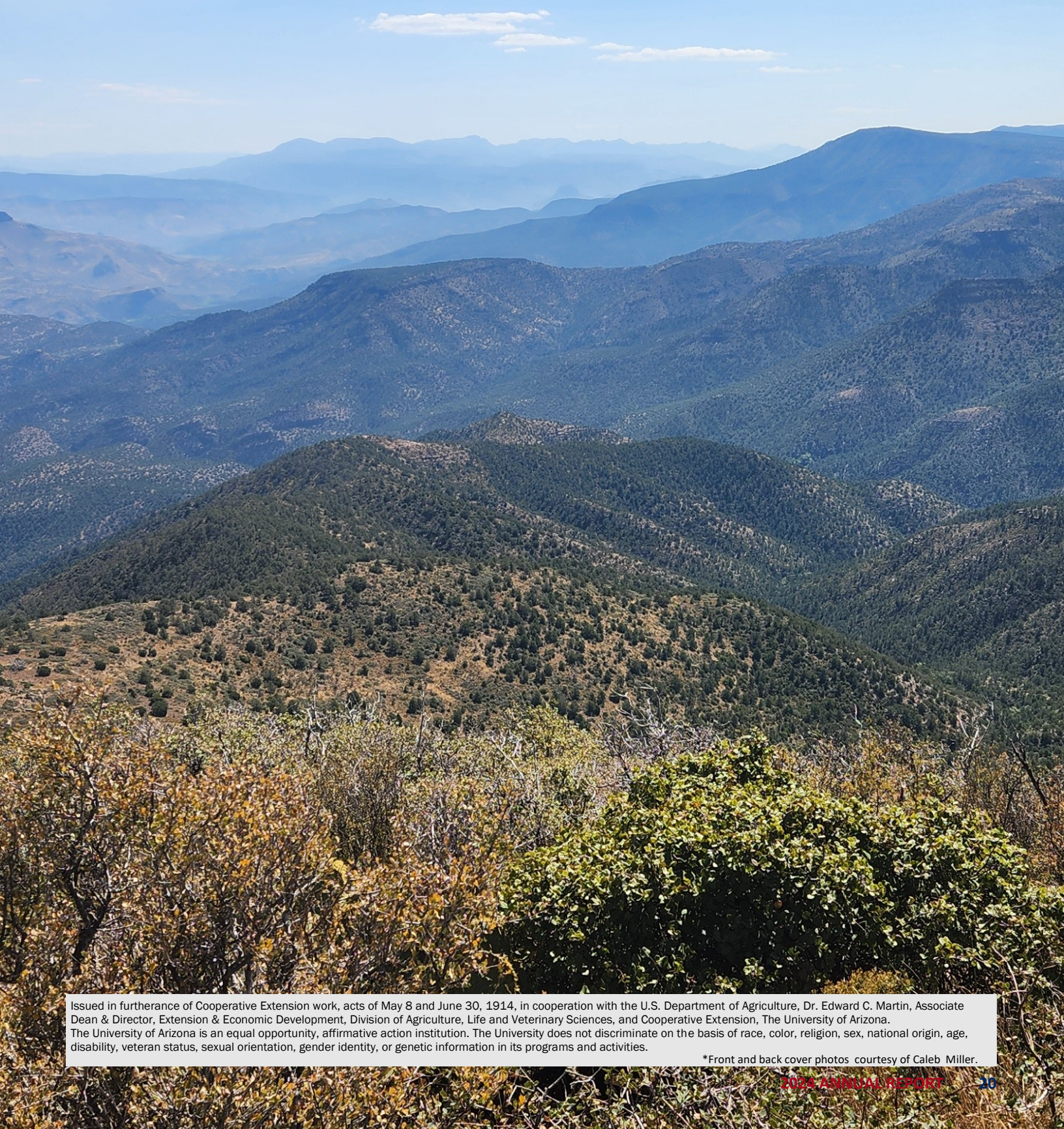


# Extension at Work





*Thank you for your continued support!*



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\*Front and back cover photos courtesy of Caleb Miller.