

2025 Annual Report

# CHAVES COUNTY COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE



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# MEET THE TEAM



**Katy Wright**  
**County 4-H Agent**

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Traditional and non  
Traditional 4-H youth  
programming in

- Agriculture and natural resources
- Leadership
- Volunteer Development
- 4-H Cloverbuds (5-8 year olds)



**Drew Garnett**  
**Agricultural Agent**

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Youth & adult programming in

- Sustainable management of natural resources
- Profitable livestock production
- Brush and weed education



**Amie Steen**  
**ICAN Educator**

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Youth & adult programming in

- Ideas for Cooking and Nutrition



**Tamara Schubert**  
**FCS/4-H Agent**  
**County Director**

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Youth & adult programming in

- Personal and Family Finance
- Nutrition and Fitness
- Early Childhood/Family Development
- 4-H Youth and Volunteer Development

**Ana Salas**  
Administrative Assistant

**Kim Spear**  
4-H Administrative Assistant

## COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE IN CHAVES COUNTY

Roswell was originally a part of Lincoln County, that included all of southeastern New Mexico. In 1889 Chaves County was carved out of the larger county, and Roswell became its county seat. Chaves County also includes the towns of Dexter, Hagerman and Lake Arthur, and the communities of Dunken, Elk, Elkins, Greenfield, Mesa and Midway. The hub of southeastern New Mexico, Chaves County has a population of 63,894 (2022 census). It is a center for irrigation farming, dairy production, ranching, manufacturing, and petroleum production.

### County Demographics:

Gender: 50.4% male / 49.6% female  
Median Age: 36

Race: 60% Hispanic / 35% non Hispanic  
Poverty: 19.6 %

Education: 17.5% bachelor's degree or higher  
Language: 65% English Only Speakers

The Cooperative Extension Service is a unique federal, state, and county partnership which was enabled by the Smith-Lever Act of 1914 and constitutionally mandated in New Mexico in 1915.

The Chaves County Cooperative Extension Service has been assisting citizens of the community since 1917. As the outreach portion of the College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences of New Mexico's land grant institution, New Mexico State University, the mission of the Cooperative Extension Service is:

**To provide practical, research-based knowledge and programs to the people of New Mexico to improve their quality of life.**

NMSU Chaves County Cooperative Extension Service relays this information to residents by offering programming in the areas of Agriculture, Natural Resources, Family and Consumer Sciences, and 4-H Youth Development.

# REPORTING NUMBERS FOR 2025

## PERSONAL CONTACTS:

Interactions with community clientele

**TOTAL 34,738**

(Decrease in Contacts due in part to changes in reporting.)

## MEDIA CONTACTS:

Contacts from media publications- newsletters, social media interactions, etc.

**Total 50,445**

(Decrease in Media Contacts due in part to reporting reactions vs general views.)

## MASS MEDIA EVENTS:

Publications, interviews, and articles etc. that were produced.

**Total 105 (36% increase)**



# 4-H AND YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

Youth Development research emphasizes the importance of meeting the four basic human needs of belonging, generosity, independence and mastery. To create self directing, productive, contributing members of society, 4-H provides youth the opportunities to acquire leadership, citizenship, and life skills while meeting the four basic human needs. The 4-H agents in Chaves County continue to strive to create an atmosphere of belonging and opportunities for youth to develop these basic needs.

**Chaves County's 4-H program** consists of ten traditional 4-H clubs, a cloverbud program and shooting sports program that encompasses ~ 300 youth between the ages of five to 18 enrolled and 90 adult volunteer leaders. Members develop social and leadership skills and learn parliamentary procedure by attending meetings, workshops, and practices. By attending club meetings, 4-H agents were able to establish and maintain relationships with 4-H members and their families and develop a working relationship with club leaders.

## 4-H Youth Leadership

**Club Leadership** is the first opportunity for a 4-H member to gain leadership experience. On average 90 youth each year serve in a leadership role for their club. In order to understand their office responsibilities, develop communication skills, and increase their knowledge of parliamentary procedure, approximately 50% of the officers attended a training hosted by the county council officers and agents. Over 90% of the youth who attend the club officer training gain knowledge of their roles and responsibilities and leave equipped to fulfil their duties as a club officer.

**County Council Leadership** provides an opportunity for youth to continue to develop their independence in leadership. Nine youth were elected to serve on the Chaves County 4-H Council. The council officers received training from the 4-H and FCS Agent on their duties and responsibilities and then had the opportunity to instruct club officers in what they had learned. The council also includes three adult advisors and two representatives from each club. Each month, the council conducts business on behalf of the county 4-H program, selecting county-wide community service projects and member participation reimbursements, and works as a link between the clubs.



**Chaves County 4-H Ambassador** program strives to provide Senior 4-H members the opportunity to develop and practice advanced leadership skills related to mentoring other youth and to become advocates for agriculture. Each year, selected ambassadors conduct educational workshops for new and experienced members as well as fun and interactive camps. Through mentoring ambassadors develop their public speaking skills as well as valuable relationships with younger 4-H members. This year we had one poultry Ambassador. Seven youth have been selected to serve as ambassadors for this coming year.

**Junior Leadership** allows 4-H members the opportunity to provide Adult 4-H Volunteers with additional assistance in their 4-H clubs, program workshops and related activities. Junior Leaders also serve as mentors and role models to the younger 4-H members by sharing their experiences with them.

**Conferences** Each year 4-H Members have the opportunity to attend leadership conferences around the state. This year one youth attended Senior Leadership Retreat held in ABQ and ten attended Youth Get Away held at Glorietta Adventure Camps.



# 4-H AND YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

## 4-H Educational Workshops

**Cloverbuds** provides a non-competitive educational youth development opportunity for five to eight-year-olds. The 4-H agent designed lessons to stimulate learning, provide an opportunity to develop fine motor skills, grow interest in 4-H, and to have fun. Cloverbud meetings were held in conjunction with traditional 4-H club meetings. The agent prepared an agenda with instructions and supplies for recruited adult volunteers to follow. Cloverbuds are also able to participate in general county-wide programming that is age-appropriate. Additionally, this year the agent reintroduced Cloverbud day camp, a four-hour program for Cloverbuds offered in both Roswell and Hagerman. Seventeen cloverbuds participated in the events, all exhibiting at least one item in the county fair, with exhibits increasing from 23 to 81, a 252% increase

**Project Workshops** allow for the greatest opportunity for growth in independence and mastery through the 4-H program. Not all youth have the means or availability to an adult to assist them with their projects. By hosting project workshops through the county office, youth develop relationships with caring adults and are given the opportunity to develop a variety of life skills. The 4-H and FCS Agents recruited volunteers to instruct educational workshops for braiding, ceramics, food/nutrition, photography, welding, rocketry, dairy, dog, horse/rodeo, and livestock projects.

**Quilting** With assistance from several Extension Club members, the FCS Agent has held six Quilting project workshop days with at least 2.5 hours of instruction at each workshop. Participants included novice through senior 4-H members that learned about fabric selection, batting selection, cutting material, fabric pattern and placement, seam allowances, pressing techniques, quilt assembly, and binding quilts. All participants not only gained knowledge in quilting techniques but expressed they valued learning and being around their friends while doing so.



**Sewing I and II** With many beginner sewers, the FCS Agent worked with two 4-H volunteers to conduct eight project workshops. To increase leadership opportunities, junior leaders were given the opportunity to teach youth about the parts of a sewing machine, sewing tools, safety, how to operate a sewing machine and simple sewing procedures. Sewing workshops consist of 2.5 hours of education and practice time. As a result, youth have developed the ability to work independently and plan ahead as they choose fabrics and accessories for beginning their projects.

**Fibercraft** In an effort to increase involvement in FCS programming, the FCS Agent offered workshops in fibercraft projects including Crochet I, Crochet II, Knitting, Embroidery, Cross Stitch, Weaving and Macrame. The FCS Agent offered 5 project classes for enrolled 4-H members, youth learned the basic stitches, equipment requirements, selecting the correct needles, how to tie slip knots, and how to start their patterns by participating in the 4-H fibercraft workshops.

**FCS Lock In** In an effort to increase belonging amongst youth in the 4-H Program. The FCS Agent designed a 2 day Lock in event for youth. Activities included a braiding workshop, food challenge dinner, a cupcake decorating workshop, arts and crafts, hula hoop weaving, a creative touches workshop, a jewelry workshop, a housing and interior design workshop, a favorite foods breakfast, and lots of fun. As a result 86% of youth in attendance accomplished something that they couldn't do before.



# 4-H AND YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

## 4-H Educational Workshops continued....

**Nontraditional FCS Projects** To reach nontraditional FCS youth, the 4-H Agents hosted five jewelry, origami, and NM Education classes reaching 67 participants of various ages from Cloverbuds to Senior Members. Youth increased their skills in paper folding, color, design, leadership and their knowledge of NM culture. The older members had the opportunity to assist younger members and show them skills and techniques to use for each project.



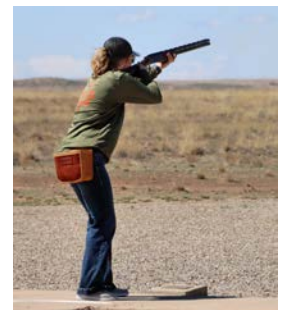
**Volunteer Led Projects** Agents worked with project leaders to hold workshops for Braiding, Ceramics, Food and Nutrition, Photography, Rocketry, Welding, Dairy, Dog, Rodeo and Horse. These workshops accounted for another 181 in contact numbers.

## 4-H Shooting Sports

**Advisory Committee** meetings are held prior to a new 4-H practice season and are comprised of the 4-H shooting sports discipline leaders. Program goals are discussed, yearly safety meetings are scheduled, and practice days and times are determined. The committee formally met three times this year to review the previous year, plan for the upcoming year, and update the county rules. Additionally, two youth members have been selected as Ambassadors to serve on the committee

**Safety Meetings** are held prior to shooting sports practices as a required component of the program. The 4-H agent conducted informational meetings attended by 150 (22% increase from 2024) 4-H members. Safety Meeting evaluations showed 100% of attendees found the meetings more engaging than previous years, 90% rated the new format as much better or somewhat better, 100% felt confident in behavioral expectations, and 86% felt very confident in shooting sports safety and equipment handling. The most helpful additions included discipline-specific safety discussions, range activity, Shooting Sports Ambassadorships, and the communication system.

**Practices** are instructed by 4-H certified volunteers. The 71 participants learned how to responsibly care and handle firearms/bows while honing their accuracy. This year, 16 volunteers serve as certified volunteers. Certification requires coaches to participate in a minimum 15-hour course; 12 hours in a specific discipline and in teaching youth development, life skills, and risk management.



**County, District, and State Contests** provide an opportunity to showcase the skills youth develop in the shooting sports disciplines and build a sense of team. This year, 25 youth represented Chaves County at the State Shooting Sports Competition in Raton, NM, and thirteen youth at District Contests in Curry County. Five Chaves County teams placed in the top five at the State 4-H Shooting Sports Championships across archery, pistol, shotgun, and air pistol, and nine youth earned individual top-ten placements. At District Contests, Novice and Junior participants achieved notable results, including first-place individual awards in Novice Recurve and Junior Recurve archery, a fourth-place finish for Junior Compound, and a second-place Junior Compound team award. Rifle events saw a fourth-place Novice individual, third-place Novice team, and fifth-place Junior team, along with a fifth-place Junior Air Rifle individual. In the shotgun, two Junior teams placed fourth and fifth, respectively.

# 4-H AND YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

## 4-H Competitive Events

**Judging Contest Practices** allow 4-H members to gain knowledge of contest and requirements, and confidence in their ability to compete in those areas. This year to make the most of everyone's busy schedules FCS and Ag contest practices were held together on the first Monday of every month. Youth could practice a variety of skills and learn new material in multiple subjects all at once. As a result participation in practices rose and youth were better prepared for competition at the county, district and state competitions.

**County, District, and State Contests** build self-esteem and develop public speaking, decision-making, and problem-solving skills in 4-H youth. Sixty-one Novice, Junior and Senior members participated in the county contest and received awards for their scores. The FCS and 4-H agents accompanied the 21 eligible Novice and Junior members to the Southwest 4-H District Contest in Curry County where participants received several individual and/or team awards. Additionally, 4-H Agents accompanied 9 eligible Seniors to the State 4-H Judging Contest in Las Cruces, NM. Three youth participated in the State Dairy Judging Contest in conjunction with the State FFA CDEs. All members gained confidence in competing and developed problem-solving and decision-making skills.



**Chaves County 4-H & FFA Fair** was attended by 127 4-H & FFA youth exhibiting indoor and livestock projects. Twelve youth competed in the Janet Randeau Memorial Horse Show, exhibiting their knowledge and skills gained through attending monthly horse/rodeo workshops. Exhibitors gained responsibility through caring for their livestock, gained knowledge and skills in their indoor project areas, and felt a sense of accomplishment as they showcased their projects. In 2024, 68 youth (30% increase from 2024) completed over 800 exhibits and received over \$5,000.00 in premiums for their placings. Exhibitors gained knowledge and skills in their project areas which can be continued as a hobby or possibly a future career.



**NM State Fair** is an opportunity for youth to show at the state level as well as an opportunity to participate in the Jerry Hawkins Memorial Judging Contest. Two families participated in livestock shows. The FCS Agent and 4-H Agent took first place in the Chaves County 4-H inside exhibits at the New Mexico State Fair. Chaves County had 314 (3% increase from 2024) exhibits that qualified to be exhibited at the State Fair. Chaves County youth showed an increase in knowledge and skills related to their projects, as evidenced by recognition received and ribbons won. A Chaves County Youth received top honors in the indoor exhibits for this leathercraft project.

**Eastern New Mexico State Fair** is the last fair of the show season. It's a regional option to exhibit their indoor exhibits and a state option to exhibit livestock. 44 youth (22% increase) from Chaves County qualified to exhibit a total of 488 entries in the indoor exhibit hall. 58 youth from Chaves County 4-H (not including youth enrolled in both FFA & 4-H) exhibited livestock. During the ENMSF 4-H youth run at the Ice Cream Parlor, participants learned customer service, money management, and more.

## Agronomic Crop and Pasture Improvement

**Soil Temperatures** The Chaves County Extension Office performs a public service for the area by monitoring and publicizing soil temperatures in the spring to assist farmers and home gardeners on planting timing. Five area farmers took soil temperatures each morning, Monday through Friday, for the Month of April and into May, and reported those temperatures to the office so that the numbers could be shared with the local media: four radio and one newspaper. It was also reported on our social media pages. Knowledge of soil temperatures assist growers in being more successful in establishing their warm season crops.



**Agricultural Awareness Presentations** The agent delivered presentations to numerous local and statewide service organizations, highlighting the current state of agriculture and its vital role in Chaves County and New Mexico. Audiences included Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs), Chaves Farm & Livestock Bureau, Rotary Club, Sertoma Club, and several other community groups.

**Networking with Agencies/Organizations** Working with government and private agencies, the agent was able to assist producers in finding funding for crop, water and range land improvements. Working with NRCS agents on locating livestock dewormers that are dung beetle friendly. Working with USDA, NRCS, BLM, and SWCD on brush land and noxious weed control for range and agricultural land.



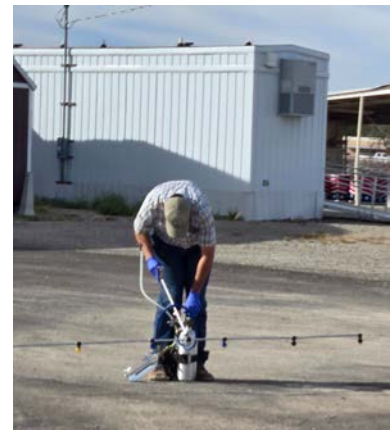
**Coffee with an Ag Agent** Weekly meetings in a local hardware the agent had morning hours for the public to interact with and engage on topics affecting the valley. Topics ranged from water use, crop viability, range management, wildlife management and damage mitigation, dairy production, and many more. This reached 129 clients in 2025

## Brush and Weed Control

**Landowner Field Interactions** The agent met with and worked with producers and landowners on property management for vegetation management for livestock production and wildlife management. Many landowners were interested in brush management strategies for livestock production while several were interested in manipulating their properties for wildlife improvement. The agent utilized NRCS, BLM, and the SWCD Noxious weed specialist for brush management.

## Integrated Pest Management Systems

**Annual CEUs Workshop** The agent collaborated with the Chaves County Soil and Water Noxious Weed Specialist to host a Pesticide Applicator License Continuing Education Unit (CEU) Workshop to assist New Mexico pesticide license holders in obtaining continuing education for their pesticide license requirements. A total of 40 individuals attended receiving five CEU's, enabling them to renew their pesticide license. Those present included Agricultural producers, Chaves County Employees, NRCS Employees, Commercial applicators, and Golf Course applicators. Pesticide license holders count on attending this workshop each year, instead of having to travel out-of-town or go online to receive CEU's, and there is no fee to attend.



## Urban Horticulture

**Gardening at the Library** Working with the Roswell Public Library the agent started presenting on gardening in Southeastern New Mexico every third Saturday of the month. Over 2025 ten presentations were presented either by the agent or a Master Gardener including the Library's Grinch Stole Christmas Event. The Agent was able to reach 332 contacts in 2025.

**Ready - Set - Grow Webinar Series** The agent collaborated with John Garlich, Emily Bruton, Rachel Zweig, Lynda Garvin, and Marisa Thompson, to produce and host a monthly webinar presentation on horticultural related topics.



**Chaves County Master Gardeners** Agent worked with local Master Gardener chapter to host events, educational workshops, and meetings throughout the year. Throughout 2025 the CCMGs completed over 1300 volunteer hours, worked on two county beautification projects including a project for the Blackdom Memorial Dedication, farmers markets, ENMSF educational booth, presentations and more.

**Urban Horticulture Symposium** The Chaves County Agent collaborating with the agents from Eddy, Roosevelt, and Lea counties collaborated to host the annual Urban Horticulture Symposium. The Agents utilized NMSU specialists to present in person workshops on soil health, vegetable gardening in the NM, heat tolerant plants, and turf grasses.

**Personal Contacts and House Calls** Throughout 2025, the agent worked with numerous homeowners to address a variety of horticultural and landscape concerns. While not all consultations were in-person, many involved on-site visits to homes and properties across Chaves County. These visits focused on issues such as gardens, lawns, wildlife, and other plant-related challenges. The agent applied research-based solutions using the scientific method, NMSU publications, guidance from NMSU specialists, soil sampling, and the NMSU Plant Diagnostic Clinic. These site visits provided a direct way to connect with the general public and deliver practical, science-backed recommendations for common problems, including declining lawns, stressed trees, and other plant health issues.

**Winter and Herb Gardening** The agent hosted a workshop teaching participants how to successfully grow herbs and maintain gardens during the winter months. Topics included plant selection, soil preparation, container gardening, and strategies for protecting plants in cold weather. The session encouraged sustainable practices and homegrown herbs for healthy cooking. The workshop was present on behalf of the Chaves County Extension Clubs.

## Profitable Livestock Production

**Youth Ranch Management Camp 2025** The NM Youth Ranch Management Camp is a life-changing event for 30 youth, receiving college-level instruction in managing a working ranch. High school-aged youth were introduced to the intricacies of running a working beef ranch: Financials, marketing strategies, production, management of natural resources and wildlife. The agent assisted in facilitating the camp and one presentation during the weeklong camp. Youth who participated in the YRMC earn college credits if they choose to attend NMSU.



# FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCES

The FCS Agent over sees four extension clubs in Chaves County with a membership of 50. The purpose of the Chaves County Extension Clubs, is to strengthen, develop, coordinate, and extend youth and adult education in Family and Consumer Sciences, Agriculture, and related subjects in conjunction with the Cooperative Extension Service of NMSU, while also encouraging members to take an interest in and to support and participate in community affairs and community education.

## Early Childhood and Family Development

### Community Outreach

**Books for Newborns** Books for Newborn is an outreach of Chaves County Extension Clubs and reaches ~1200 moms and babies yearly. New parents around Chaves County receive a Books for Newborns packet consisting of an Extension Booklet, new board book, and information on Baby's First Wish. The Agent completely rewrote and updated the now thirty-two-page booklet containing information on child growth and development, feeding your baby, car seat safety, immunizations, SIDS, Shake Baby Syndrome, and NMSU Baby's First Wish. FCS agent was able to secure outside donations/grants for literacy materials included in the Books for Newborns packets that are distributed to area hospitals.

**Nursing Coverups** Nursing cover ups is an outreach of Chaves County Extension Clubs and reaches 120 parents yearly. Extension Club Members get together and sew nursing cover ups for local hospitals to encourage breast feeding- fleece during the winter months and knits during the spring months. Agent was able to get ~25 yards of knit material donated to the Extension Clubs for this purpose. Agent is working on breastfeeding guides to include with Nursing coverups.



### Community Programming

**Little Books Little Cooks** Little Cooks offers preschool children, educators, and parents the chance to cook and read stories together. It also provides the opportunity to increase literacy and food and nutrition skills. FCS Agent hosted 9 workshops focusing on early childhood literacy and quick and easy snacks that expand the literacy activity. Participants were able to participate in story time and increase their knowledge of food and nutrition, child/parent interactions, and literacy. Agent teamed up with the 4-H Agent to provide related crafts during programs.



**Crafting for Your Mental Health** According to the National Library of Medicine, Mental health concerns can have a high impact on an older person's ability to carry out basic daily living activities, reducing their independency, autonomy and quality of life. The FCS Agent worked with Senior Circle in Roswell and the Joy Center in Hagerman to establish a monthly Crafting for Your Mental Health program at each site. Seniors can be creative and socialize at the same time, both which have a major impact on our mental wellbeing. This program reached 138 attendees in 2025.

**Cricut and More** The agent hosted a creative workshop featuring Cricut cutting machines, where participants learned to design and craft personalized projects. The session highlighted the mental health benefits of creativity, including stress relief, mindfulness, and social connection, offering a fun and therapeutic experience for the community.

# FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCES

## School Programming

**Little Steps Early Learning Center:** This the the Agent was able to pick up monthly classes in the four year old room at Little Steps Early Learning Center. The Agent plans and conducts monthly classes focusing on agriculture literacy in our preschool friends. The class is comprised of 18 youth and classes are held during the school year with summers off as a result of schedules.

## Newspaper Articles

**Article Submissions** The Agent was able to submit 18 newspaper articles to not only the Roswell Daily Record but also papers in Hobbs and Lovington. The 18 articles focused on both early childhood development and mental health across the life span.

## Handouts, Brochures, and Postings

Mental Health can significantly impact our ability to cope with life's ups and downs, build healthy relationships, be contributing members of society and more. To aid in awareness of Mental Health concerns, the Agent develops and/or posts weekly Talk it Out social media handouts/graphics. In 2025, the FCS Agent produced/shared 42 graphics receiving 162 reactions through social media

## Nutrition Education and Physical Fitness

### Community Programming

**5-2-1-0 Mayor's Fitness and Nutrition Challenge** is offered to all third grade students in Chaves County. This program promotes healthy eating and physical activity in the school environment and at home by challenging the students to eat 5 fruits and vegetables a day, limit screen time to 2 hours or less, to get one hour of physical activity a day, and drink H2O for 21 days. The FCS agent coordinated with Healthy Kids Chaves County to present the 5210 skit to all third grade students in Chaves County. In 2025, 700 students participated in the program. Agent was also able to secure funding to provide additional support to the program.



**Kitchen Creations** Individuals with diabetes are at an increased risk for heart disease, kidney damage, amputations, blindness, and other serious health conditions. For those with diabetes, making healthy meals can be a real challenge. Kitchen Creations is a series of four classes on nutrition and cooking for adults with diabetes. Participants learn how to plan and prepare meals that manage carbs and promote heart health. One series was hosted in 2025 by the FCS Agent. Comment cards reflected an overall increase in healthier food choices and included comments such as "I found out things I didn't know... a lot more information than what I got from my doctor. Great class!"

**Prevent T 2** According to Diabetes.Org there are 587,000 people in New Mexico, 36.1% of the adult population, who have prediabetes with blood glucose levels that are higher than normal but not yet high enough to be diagnosed as diabetes. Every year an estimated 14,611 people in New Mexico are diagnosed with diabetes. Prevention is key. Prevent T 2 is a program designed to lower the risk for a full diabetes diagnosis. The program is a yearlong program covering eating habits, activity, stress, sleep patterns and more. 2025 is the third year this program has been offered in Chaves County since COVID, with twelve members participating.

# FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCES

## Nutrition Education and Physical Fitness continued...

**Strong Bones** is a researched based program for women and men over 50 years or older . This program is to help prevent osteoporosis by doing weight bearing exercises. Three groups continued to hold classes throughout 2025. Participants have commented on being more flexible, having less fear of falling, being less depressed, improved bone density numbers and becoming stronger. This program reached over 1,800 over the year.



**ICAN** The Agent provides support to one ICAN (Ideas for Cooking And Nutrition) educator who provides various lessons to adults and youth of Chaves County. Lessons reached RISD, Salvation Army, low-income senior housing, La Casa Behavioral Health and virtual audiences. Participants increased their knowledge in healthy food choices, food preparation skills, food resource management, physical activity, nutrition labels, food safety and financial management. Statewide ICAN increased programming to youth and adults audiences by 33% in 2024. Chaves County ICAN educator offered 116 classes in FY25 reaching 4,922.

### Leaders Trainings

**Sourdough for Beginners** The agent worked with a community volunteer to host a hands-on sourdough workshop, teaching participants the fundamentals of creating and maintaining a sourdough starter, proper fermentation techniques, and baking artisan-style bread. The session emphasized food safety, nutrition, and practical skills to encourage home baking and reduce reliance on processed foods.



**Freeze Drying** The agent worked with a community volunteer to conduct a freeze-drying workshop to educate participants on the principles and benefits of freeze-drying food for long-term storage. The session covered equipment use, food safety, and best practices to preserve nutritional quality while reducing waste. Attendees gained practical skills to safely prepare and store a variety of foods using this method.

**Pickle Ball** The agent organized a pickleball workshop to introduce participants to the basics of the sport, including rules, techniques, and equipment use. The session promoted physical activity, social engagement, and healthy lifestyles, providing a fun and accessible way for community members to stay active.

### Videos

**Tasty Tid Bit** The Agent produced 4 videos for TikTok on various recipes and included kitchen tips and tricks along with nutrition information. These videos reached an audience of over 259 clientele.



### Handouts, Brochures, and Postings

Nutrition is a critical part of health and development. Better nutrition is related to improved infant, child and maternal health, stronger immune systems, safer pregnancy and childbirth, lower risk of non-communicable diseases (such as diabetes and cardiovascular disease), and longevity. Healthy children learn better. To aid in accurate nutrition and food safety information, along with general kitchen practices, the Agent developed National Food Days handouts/graphics. In 2025, the FCS Agent produced 50 graphics reaching 171 through social media.

## 4-H and Youth Development

4-H members, leaders, parents, and volunteers receive assistance from the FCS agent with FCS related 4-H projects, contests, and events at the club, county, district, and state level. The FCS agent works closely with the 4-H Agent to provide a cohesive 4-H Program so that each 4-H member receives the best experiences and opportunities during their 4-H career. The Agent helps to implement 4-H events and programs in the county. These include county council meetings, county contests, community service events, leader's meetings, district, and state contests, fundraisers and achievement banquet. Approximately 275 4-H families receive a monthly newsletter which helps to keep them informed of upcoming events and deadlines. Please see 4-H Youth Development Program segment for full details on specific programs available to 4-H families.

### Community Programs

**4-H Day at the Library** To reach out to the community and new audiences the Agent worked with Library staff to create and offer 4-H Day at the Library in 2022. Once a month the Agents conducts 4-H programming at the Library for youth in the community that may or may not be currently enrolled in the 4-H program. This program expanded in 2023 to two locations (Roswell and Hagerman) and saw a **30% increase** in participation this year.



**Dragon Fly Festival** FCS Agent served as a booth presenter during the Annual Dragon Fly Festival held at Bitter Lakes Wildlife Refuge. The Agent planned four stations for youth to participate in hands on activities. During the event the Agent worked with volunteers to administer different stations.

**Children's Day** Agent coordinates with ENMSF office to coordinate Child's Day at the Fair. Agent is responsible for booking presenters, coordinating rotations, locating volunteers, and over seeing day of operations. This program reach 700 clientele that learned about food safety, the dairy industry, farming/gardening, land resources, livestock, mental health and germs.

**Aggie Next Step** Agent has worked with the State 4-H Office to bring the Aggie Next Step program to Chaves County. Aggie Next Step is a post secondary success program through NMSU. The program includes modules and hands on activities to prepare youth for life after high school along with a visit to NMSU. In 2022, it was offered through Berrendo Middle School. Working with area teachers we were able to start the program in Goddard High School, Roswell High School, and University High School in 2023. This program continued in 2024 and Dexter High School was added in 2025.



**Fun Fit Family Night** The FCS Agent and ICAN Educator coordinates with RISD to be a booth presenter at Fun Fit Family Night every September. The office presents an activity along with nutrition information to families in attendance resulting in contacts with 1000 community members.

# FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCES

## Personal and Family Finance

The Extension Council offered three scholarships- one is awarded to an upper classman at NMSU, another scholarship is awarded to a freshman or sophomore in any NM accredited college or university, and the Extension Homemaker's Scholarship is awarded to an Extension Club member who is presently going to school. The FCS agent maintains the application and distributes the application to eight high schools within Chaves county.

## Community Programs

**Christmas Showcase** Every November the Extension Clubs, with guidance from the FCS Agent, plan and host A Christmas Showcase. In 2025 "Oh Christmas Tree" reached 225 members. Those in attendance gained knowledge in food preparation, food safety, economical and easy gifts to make, low-cost decorating ideas and simple sewing projects which when incorporated increased their skills in areas of sewing, cooking, and family relationships. The Extension Club members who presented gained leadership skills in planning an event and presentation/ public speaking skills. Formal evaluation tools showed



- 100% of participants found the information beneficial and useful.
- 100% of respondents planned to use the information and items presented this holiday season.
- 96% of respondents felt that the information presented would assist them in saving money this holiday season. With 35% believing they could save more than \$75 in their holiday budget by implementing the information presented.

## Newspaper Articles

**Article Submissions** The Agent was able to submit 1 newspaper articles to not only the Roswell Daily Record but also papers in Hobbs and Lovington. The article focused on holiday spending with tips and tricks to avoid credit interest payments and long term debt due to holiday spending.

# MULTIMEDIA AND PUBLIC RELATIONS

**Facebook** is used to disburse Extension programs and information by all agents. There are three NMSU Chaves County pages (CES-Agriculture, Family and Consumer Sciences, and 4-H) with 2,671 followers who receive information on agent and NMSU programming. (7% increase from 2024).

**Instagram** is used to disburse Extension programs and information on 4-H and FCS programming. There are two NMSU Chaves County pages (nmsuchaves4h and nmsuchavesfcs) with 326 followers who receive information on agent and NMSU programming. (11% increase from 2024)

**YouTube** is used to distribute educational videos on 4-H and FCS programming. There is one NMSU Chaves County Extension Channel. There were 569 views in 2025 (26% increase from 2024.)

**Morning Talk Show Radio** with Mike Winters is utilized once a month by all agents to promote activities and upcoming programs available to the community.