Test Orchard Planted on Fairgrounds

A small test orchard was planted to not only beautify the Fairgrounds from its North side, but also for CSU Extension testing.

The orchard will serve as a location to evaluate production and disease resistance of selected temperate tree fruits in Jefferson County. In addition, the orchard will be used in hands-on workshops to train Jefferson County residents interested in home fruit production how to prune and maintain temperate tree fruits.

Improvements Taking Shape in CSU Extension Demonstration Gardens

The first stage of a series of improvements to the CSU Extension Demonstration gardens was new edging and pathway materials in the Plant Select Garden begun this summer. This work has now been completed. A frost free water line has been installed for the Horticulture Demonstration garden and new irrigation within the garden will be completed in early 2016.

The Plant Select garden is home to specially selected plants that do well in our local climate and altitude. This garden is not irrigated in order to demonstrate plant hardiness in natural Jefferson County weather and climate conditions.
Native Plant Master Program Hosts Successful Webinar

Native Lookalikes to Noxious Weeds was a sure winner of a presentation for 99 participants who took this webinar. Native Plant Master and Gilpin County Director, Irene Shonle was presenter

Fall is 4-H season for recognition and recruitment

Major fall events for 4-H youth included the October 6 Achievement Night where members and leaders were recognized for their accomplishments over the past 4-H year, including recognizing participants in the Colorado State Fair.

Below: County Commissioners distribute awards.

Above: Pot luck provides fun and mingling to begin the Achievement Night celebration.

Recruitment efforts in October included:

an enthusiastic group of 4-H members participating in Clear Creek History Park’s Homesteader’s Day bringing a variety of animals and sharing information about their projects with over 800 visitors to the park that day;

4-H Open House attended by 170 people who listened to 4-H members giving speeches and demonstrations about their projects and displaying information about their clubs and activities, and;

the Annual Fall Fun Shoot giving youth an opportunity to try out all seven Shooting Sports disciplines and encouraging them to join the program if they haven’t already participated.
A November trip to Glenwood Springs for nine Jeffco 4-H members in grades 6 through 9 who participated in Colorado Leadership Camp netted learning in teamwork, leadership, communication, and citizenship skills through a variety of workshops.
Above: The CLC (Colorado Leadership Conference) participants.

The year would not be complete without giving. Many 4-H clubs and groups give back to their communities by sponsoring needy families providing them with gifts and holiday meals, ringing bells for the Salvation Army, or participating in food drives and other community service activities.

ENOR Report Highlights Program’s Distinct Objectives

The 2015 ENOR Environmental Discovery Camp Annual Report was released with a wealth of detail about how the camp meets its distinctive objectives that provide focus, outdoor activity, care and partnerships.

A total of 686 campers went through the 2015 program. Of those campers 361 were female campers and 325 male; 82 campers received financial assistance to attend the camp. ENOR’s mission is to provide a cornerstone for lifelong learning through the integration of social and environmental themes, thereby fostering enduring stewards of our natural resources.

Mentor Program Ends 2015 and Prepares to Launch 2016!

Youth and Families with Promise (YFP) 4-H mentoring program at Molholm, Parr and Pleasant View elementary schools has brought mentors into kids’ lives for a positive difference. Some 64 youth benefitted from the interaction with 15 mentors in this program.

Above: Mentor Jacob Thomas asks his three model rocketry students at Molholm Elementary about the design of the rocket fins. The three boys have been outside for practice launches (from toys) and have learned quite a bit about rockets in just a short amount of time.