

IMPACT



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University of Idaho—Integral to Eastern Idaho State Fair

The Situation

The Eastern Idaho State Fair (EISF) is a major event in southeastern Idaho, attracting over 200,000 fair visitors in eight days each September. The University of Idaho has a large presence at the EISF because of the many 4-H events that are integral to the fair.

Our Response

University of Idaho Extension educators and county staff work together as equal partners to plan and implement many events and activities at the EISF each year. This allows team building that would not be possible without such a regional event. Camaraderie, cohesion and collaboration develop as district personnel communicate with and assist each other in the events and activities.

Over 2,300 hours are spent each year planning and conducting 4-H shows and contests.

Contributors	Number	Hours
Faculty	25	1,000
Staff	26	800
Volunteers	25	500
Total	76	2,300

Because of this effort, many of the fair visitors observe 4-H in action and become interested in the program. 4-H livestock shows, demonstration contests, and other events allow fairgoers to learn about the program and its impacts in an informal setting.

Because of a nearly 100-year involvement, the University of Idaho Extension is expected to be the organization responsible for planning, organizing, and conducting the significant 4-H portion of the Eastern Idaho State Fair. Without University of Idaho involvement, the fair would undoubtedly have a different look and feel.

Program Outcomes

The following table indicates the number of 4-H members participating and the number of 4-H projects exhibited at EISF in 2005. The premium money is provided by the EISF Board.

Area	Members	Projects	Premiums
Miscellaneous/ Home Economics	2,231	3,476	\$6,952.00
Livestock/ Animal	792	1,085	\$2,194.75
EISF Awards	---	---	\$405.00
Total	3,023	4,561	\$9,551.75

Community sponsors provide additional money for many 4-H shows and events at EISF as shown in the following table.

EISF Event	Dollars to 4-H Members
Miscellaneous/ Home Economics	\$300
Livestock/Animal	\$62,330
Total	\$62,630

Not only do 4-H members receive money for participating in EISF, they also gain valuable knowledge and experiences by preparing and exhibiting their projects. The quality of animals exhibited by the youth has increased because of the use of ultrasound technology. 4-H members increase confidence through showing livestock, participating in judging contests, and giving verbal demonstrations to fairgoers.

Future Plans:

The University of Idaho plans to continue providing educational opportunities to the youth of southeastern Idaho through 4-H events and activities at the Eastern Idaho State Fair. Educators plan to increase the use of University of Idaho signage in the 4-H building, at 4-H shows, in the livestock barns and at the style revue to help the public associate 4-H with the University of Idaho.

Other Contributing Faculty:

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