

## **Self-Directed 4-H Projects Increase Participation at the Fair**

### ***The Situation***

Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program 4-H projects entered at the county fair had dipped to 30 projects in 1996. One of the problems was lack of interest in the many outdated, state-endorsed food and nutrition projects that could be entered at the fair.

### ***Our Response***

In 1997-98 Bannock County started a new program for 4-H youth called "Self-Directed Projects". The youth, with their leaders, pick out the goals they want to accomplish in food and nutrition 4-H and then choose activities that help them reach the goals. They must have at least 6 meetings, do a demonstration, create a poster or display, and complete a short one-page record sheet to enter their project in the fair.

### ***Achievements***

EFNEP 4-H projects increased to an all time high of 121 projects entered at the Bannock County fair in 1999. The youth are excited to be part of the self-directed learning process and eagerly work with their leaders to set the goals they want to accomplish.

### ***For More Information***

Audrey Liddil  
State EFNEP Coordinator  
University of Idaho Cooperative Extension System  
130 N. 6<sup>th</sup>  
Pocatello, ID 83201-4228  
Phone: 208-236-7318  
Fax: 208-236-7316  
E-mail: [aliddil@uidaho.edu](mailto:aliddil@uidaho.edu)

Becky Dahl  
Extension Educator  
University of Idaho  
Bannock County Cooperative Extension System  
130 N. 6<sup>th</sup>  
Pocatello, ID 83201-4228  
Phone: 208-236-7311  
Fax: 208-236-7316  
E-mail: [bdahl@uidaho.edu](mailto:bdahl@uidaho.edu)