

# impact

University of Idaho Extension programs that are making a difference in Idaho.

## Strengthening the Teton area food system through the Teton Food and Farm Coalition

### AT A GLANCE

Using Ripple Effects Mapping, the Teton Food and Farm Coalition evaluates impacts and sets future organizational priorities.

### The Situation

The Teton Food and Farm Coalition (TFFC) is a Teton-based group (Jackson Hole and Teton Valley) formed as result of a handful of grassroots meetings held beginning in 2016 with chefs, farmers and others initially interested in having farm-to-table events and a local food directory in Teton Valley. Since then, the TFFC has broadened their focus to coordinate local food system efforts in the Teton Idaho/Wyoming “foodshed” moving forward under the larger umbrella of a food and farm coalition. They did this to also link their regional efforts with other food coalitions and policy councils. As a coalition of businesses, farmers/ranchers, nonprofits and other individuals, they recognize that there is strength in numbers, leading to increased social and economic resources.

After two years of regular meetings formally facilitated by University of Idaho Extension, the leadership team decided that an evaluation of the organization, as well as strategic planning, was warranted.

### Our Response

In October 2018, the coalition’s core leadership and representatives from the main partnership organizations (UI Extension in Teton County, High Country



Teton Food and Farm Coalition participants begin the REM Evaluation Process, October 2018.

Resource Conservation & Development Council, Slow Food in the Tetons, Teton County, City of Driggs, Teton Valley Farmers Market and other local farmers) conducted a Ripple Effects Mapping (REM) evaluation of the group, followed immediately by a strategic planning session. REM evaluation is a group process that requires bringing together participants to discuss positive effects of a program through the process of storytelling and conversation. The motivation for using a REM evaluation was to articulate the positive ripple effects of the group’s formation, partnerships and projects. The REM was also the first formal evaluation of the coalition. Due to the fluid structure and unilateral leadership structure, the young group sought more, so the REM evaluation was also intended to reenergize

