2021 Impact

A high number of food preservers in central Idaho requires trained volunteers to teach food safety and food preservation practices. There are 10 Master Food Safety Advisors in the Central District teaching classes, testing canning equipment and answering critical food safety/food preservation questions.

Healthy Meals for Busy Families was developed to encourage more Idahoans to prepare meals at home. The class covered nutrition and food safety for slow cooker meals, freezer meals and 20–30-minute meals. A smoking and grilling food class began in 2021 with 12 participants increasing their knowledge regarding meat science and the how’s and why’s of smoking and grilling meat to perfection. Increasing the understanding of how to cook different meat cuts was an important part of the class.

Cassia County 4-H continues to develop partnerships and funding from ARPA grants allowed 4-H staff to teach STEM in local schools. The livestock program continues to be successful and FCS and at-home programs have expanded to include smaller communities.

Five operations attended a virtual succession planning class where they learned the correct questions to ask as they meet with professionals. Cover crop research demonstrated that 44-inch spacing between twin row corn was more productive for the corn and for the cover crop interseeded into the corn canopy, compared to 60 inches between double rows. Other cover crop research includes testing the use of biostimulents in raising corn.

On the Horizon

UI Extension FCS educators have discovered a need for individuals to learn more about cooking in a timely and healthy manner. Data collected from the first year of classes will be used to determine if needs are being met and what else people are interested in learning. The goal is to help Idaho families make healthy meals at home while saving money.

4-H STEAM programming will be offered to youth in local elementary schools. Trained shooting sport instructors and equipment from an NRA grant will allow for a wider variety of shooting sports.

Cover crop research will continue. Educator Joel Packham is planting grazing corn into established pasture on a working ranch to provide additional grazing during the winter months. Smoking and grilling foods will be offered in Cassia and surrounding counties. Training is being provided to Extension educators about succession and estate planning to improve classes and help producers prepare for this inevitable time on their operations. Farm and ranch management classes will include record keeping using computer programs like Quick Books or Wave.

2021 By the Numbers

- 11,191 direct contacts
- 7,478 youth participants
- 92 volunteers
- 1,000 volunteer hours
- $10,000 extramural funding

Our Advisory Council

Special thanks to our volunteers who help shape programming and inform the work we do for UI Extension in Cassia County: April Bryngelson, Braden Lake, Brandon Brackenbury, Braylund Sanders, Darin Harper, Kelly Anthon, Mick Hodges, Mitchell Searle, Brandi Perry, David Mabey, Kent Searle, Leonard Beck, Amy Christopherson, Donna Gillespie, Jeannie Allen, Ryan Taylor, Nancy Kunau, Beverly Searle, Penne Main, Judge Hodges, Al Barrus, Dorene Allred, Katie Muir, Jodi Hepworth, Kyle Hodges, Alisha Samples and Jay Heward.

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