2021 Impact

UI Extension, Custer County continued to serve clientele and meet their needs through a variety of methods in 2021, including 19 presentations, 23 engagement classes and workshops, 11 in-person and 43 web-based professional development trainings/events, and serving on 13 local, district, state, and regional committees.

Educator Sarah Baker held programs on livestock production and marketing, specifically beef end-product quality. This included meat cutting demonstrations for beef producers, chefs, retailers and social media influencers, and carcass contests for 4-H and FFA members. She collaborated with the local Farm Bureau on a workshop for beef producers and business owners to answer questions and provide information about COVID-19 funding resources. She served on the Idaho Young Cattle Producer’s Conference committee and helped conduct the 5th annual event. She coordinated Ag Week activities, providing educational programs in every elementary classroom in the county.

In conjunction with the Custer Soil and Water Conservation District, Baker provided programming during the 5th Grade Conservation Tour and Natural Resource Day at the local elementary school. She conducted field visits and addressed calls from beef producers, including soil and hay testing consultations, fertilizer recommendations, nitrate testing of annual forages and weed identification and management. This included calls on pasture management, grasshopper infestations, ground squirrel, vole, and gopher control, and other pest management programs. She served as a resource on public rangeland policy issues, including assisting ranchers in completing year-end monitoring requirements on public rangelands.

4-H in Custer County

The 4-H program is primarily composed of livestock projects, but includes active leadership and shooting sports clubs. The State Teen Association president and Eastern District representative all hail from Custer County. Leadership club members attended statewide leadership events, including Know Your Government, Ambassadors and the Idaho 4-H State Teen Association Convention. Members brought information back to the county and encouraged other youth to become involved in these great leadership opportunities. 4-H members conducted the annual flower barrel fundraiser, planting flower barrels for local businesses in Challis and Mackay.

Livestock program numbers were up in market beef, swine and lamb projects. 2021 saw the largest sale on record, with 70 animals sold for a total of $292,233, topping 2020’s total of $227,140 for 59 animals. Market lambs averaged $15.85/lb compared to 2020’s $11.94/lb. Market steers averaged over $7,500/animal; sheep averaged over $2,300/animal; and hogs averaged over $2,600/animal. Add-on contributions were over $50,000 compared to just over $38,000 at the 2020 sale.

On the Horizon

Volunteers, community partners and Vandal alumni gathered to welcome U of I President Scott Green and presented program highlights showcasing the reach the office and volunteers have on the local community and economy.

UI Extension, Custer County provides educational programming and resources to community members in Challis, Mackay, Stanley and Clayton, as well as many other small rural populations. The office is small with only one educator and numerous volunteers, but they are excited to be a resource to the community offering programming in livestock, beef end-product quality, range management and 4-H youth development.

2021 By the Numbers

- 2,383 direct contacts
- 79 youth participants
- 30 volunteers
- $5,000 extramural funding

Our Advisory Council

Special thanks to our volunteers who help shape programming and inform the work we do for UI Extension in Custer County.

UI Extension Educator

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