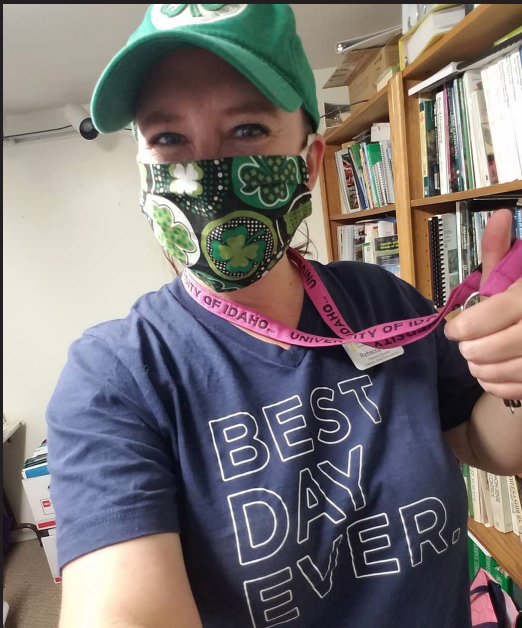


EXTENSION TRENDS: GEM/BOISE COUNTY

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2020 By the Numbers

- **2,691** direct contacts
- **754** youth participants
- **58** volunteers
- **3,178** volunteer hours

UI Extension Educator



Rebecca Mills
208-365-6363
rmills@uidaho.edu

2020 Impact

The Living on the Land: Stewardship for Small Acreages course was offered as a 14-week course and split into two locations to reach more people across the northern part of the Treasure Valley in 2020. Gem and Boise county residents were invited to attend resulting in seven registrations out of 27. Participants completed the course and a follow-up farm visit by University of Idaho Extension educators.

Instructors for the course included UI Extension educators from Gem, Payette, Owyhee, Ada and Canyon counties, agency professionals, and small acreage landowners. All participants reported increased knowledge in course topics such as weed control, pasture management, livestock and crop production, and water and soil management.

4-H in Gem and Boise County

AmeriCorps service members planned and participated in two service projects, conducted seven multi-day camps, facilitated STEAM activities at two school-based events, led regular in-class activities in four elementary classrooms, and held daily activities for youth during the county fair. All these activities were new offerings from the 4-H program in Gem and Boise counties with attendance of 358 youth and nearly 100 hours of contact time.

The AmeriCorps program was also able to pivot effectively when schools and community events shut down due to COVID-19. In response, they planned and released a STEAM at Home activity and posted it to the 4-H Facebook page daily. What they thought would last only 14 days ended up continuing through the end of the school year for a total of 55 activities.

As part of the grant, service members observed participants' progress in the areas of the six C's for any activity with over six hours of contact time: competence, confidence, connection, character, caring and contribution. In each applicable situation, youth improved over the length of the observation period.

The AmeriCorps STEAM efforts contributed to observed differences in youth behavior, reached underserved audiences through the schools, nearly doubled the reach of 4-H in the community, and contributed to good public relations that 4-H is more than livestock, horse or cooking projects.

On the Horizon

The AmeriCorps programs will continue with plans to partner with schools and county government in Boise County for funding to expand programs in that area. A new course on small scale production will launch in 2021 and will include farm tours and hands-on poultry production education. The Living on the Land: Stewardship for Small Acreages course will also continue on.