2021 Impact

The Gooding Community Garden produced 7,600 pounds of fresh produce donated to underserved audiences. Presentations included cover crops, drought-tolerant grasses, pollinator habitat, fruit trees planting and care, storm runoff capturing and community gatherings. Active research and trials included covers crop research, a field day, compost and vermicompost classes, and soil amendments for corn silage.

The Extension Collaborative on Immunization Teaching and Engagement (EXCITE) was formed to develop and deliver immunization education to underserved audiences. EXCITE and Idaho State University School of Pharmacy provided voluntary immunizations and employers and organizations helped reach farm, manufacturing and service industry workers.

The Gooding County High School Science Fair provided opportunities to learn and practice the scientific method. Forty projects were presented by 55 students in 10 divisions. Of those, 11 students went to state and state winners entered the National FFA Agriscience Career Development Contest. Five local businesses hosted research projects and sponsored awards. Surveys and interviews found an increased knowledge of science and technology careers, food science, animal agriculture and natural resource systems. 21% are interested in a science-related career.

Family Focus on Mental Health brought families together to learn a skill like embroidery, crochet, cardmaking, sewing or heritage button crafting.

4-H in Gooding County

UI Extension, Gooding County continued to support 4-H families, volunteers and the community by offering flexible programming, safety guidelines and other support. Classes included leathercrafting, cake decorating and Create Art Now, an eight-week series. Despite continued challenges, 193 animal projects and 26 other projects were presented at the 2021 Gooding County 4-H Fair. Horse education events were held to increase 4-H members’ skills and knowledge of horse management and volunteer training was conducted at county and district levels.

AmeriCorps Youth Instructor Jennifer Hamilton lead STEAM activities throughout the year, including Summer Space Exploration, Oil Painting without Rules, Family Friendly Gardening, Pumpkin Bash and December Holiday STEAM Activity. At the Pumpkin Bash, youth learned about 4-H shooting sport programs, including archery, and built catapults. In-and after-school STEAM programming was provided at various schools throughout the county.

On the Horizon

The Gooding Community Garden will expand to produce and make available fresh vegetables to underserved and at-risk populations.

Research and Extension programs related to the long-term USDA-SAS grant, rebranded to Idaho Sustainable Initiative for Dairy (ISAID), will be generating its first sets of research data.

The 4-H program will hold a small animal education day, dairy education day and cake decorating series. Four multi-week summer STEAM programs and Lego robotics activities will be held. Gooding County is also taking part in a multi-state livestock management program evaluation. Youth in local livestock programs are conducting assessments to determine if program efforts are increasing their knowledge in four main areas: health, feeding, selection and handling.