**2021 Impact**

Educator Steven Hines continues to work on advancing the knowledge of cover crop growth and adaptation. There is little regional data about cover crop use in the Western U.S. Cover crop adoption is growing, and there are many unanswered questions about specific uses and species, and how cover crops will work in various production systems. Hines is in the third year of a project growing cover crop species at the Kimberly Research and Extension Center where personal experience in growing the species will help Extension faculty, and other agency personnel, answer cover crop questions.

The 4-H program has impacted almost 100 Latinx youth with community and in-school programs. They are learning life skills, STEAM programming and college and career readiness. Community club members are learning record keeping, goal setting and other life skills to help them be successful. Educator Gretchen Manker collaborated with UI Extension Central District colleagues to coordinate a Preserving with Purpose partnership with the Martha and Mary Food Pantry. The pantry received funding from a local medical system to purchase food dehydrators, food preservation books and reusable storage bags for participants and underserved and low-income audiences were educated on food preservation methods with a focus on dehydrating. Three classes were taught to 44 participants and community volunteers translated each class for the 25 Spanish speaking participants.

**4-H in Jerome County**

Most of the 4-H youth in Jerome County are involved with community clubs and have animal projects. Summer programming in STEAM is offered through AmeriCorps and ARPA grants to broaden the scope of activities and events. Livestock numbers are constantly increasing.

The Juntos 4-H program, hosted by Jerome High School, has been serving students and families since 2018. The program is funded by a five-year USDA-CYFAR grant, which funds the Juntos coordinator, STAC and program needs. Juntos 4-H served 77 students in 2021 with 16 family events and 4-H club meetings along with 55+ hours of one-to-one student success coaching. This is the first Juntos program in the nation implemented as a for-credit elective offered during the regular school day with bi-weekly 4-H club meetings during class time. Juntos is typically implemented as a bi-weekly after-school program.

**On the Horizon**

Hines received a $5,000 Extension Innovation Grant to conduct a project with a Jerome County cattle producer using cover crops to extend the grazing season and explore ways to develop new pastures without losing any grazing opportunity through the establishment season. A grower in Twin Falls County is going to try a cover crop interseeding to corn practice Hines has been demonstrating for a couple of years.

The 4-H program is continuing with ARPA grant and AmeriCorps funded projects for 2022 focused on STEAM activities and programming in partnership with the library, picnic in the park, recreation center summer camp and the local fair board.

The first cohort of Juntos students graduated in 2022 and a new 8th grade in-school club will be offered at Jerome Middle School in the fall.

Manker will continue to offer food preservation classes with the local food pantry, with a focus on dehydrating and water bath canning.