2021 Impact

Educator Surine Greenway partnered with SW District Health to expand the Marsing Health Coalition into the Owyhee Health Coalition programming emphasis on health-based factors. Six Owyhee County teens participated in a Project Filter sponsored campaign and drafted scripts, edited, and filmed videos on teen vaping and smoking prevention education. A Master Food Safety Advisors program was started with six volunteers becoming certified to provide research-based information to clientele, thus expanding program reach.

Agriculture, livestock and range programming focused on improving pasture management for producers, which equates to reduced input costs and increased productivity. Programs resulted in 45 individuals trained/certified in artificial insemination with eight of those also completing the ISDA AI licensing exam. Beef quality assurance trainings resulted in 48 individuals becoming BQA certified.

Two Smoking and Grilling programs were offered collaboratively by Greenway and Jensen. Participants receive a lecture, demonstration and hands-on education to trim, season and cook their own beef and pork meat cuts. A live trimming demonstration is held, and a fully cooked brisket is sampled, along with other smoked food samples like cheese, pepper jam and cheesecake. This program structure contributes to knowledge, skill and confidence in participants, all while increasing food preparation at home. Additionally, a Smoking and Grilling train-the-trainer was held to expand the reach of the program across the state.

4-H in Owyhee County

Livestock projects, including swine, sheep, beef cattle and market goats, continued to be Owyhee County’s most popular projects in 2021. Of the 382 4-H and FFA members who exhibited at the Owyhee County Fair, 269 sold a market animal in the Junior Livestock Sale, which grossed $620,260, nearly $200,000 more than 2020. Youth also exhibited in small animal, breeding livestock, dairy cattle and goat, horse, family and consumer science, healthy living, shooting sports and communication and expressive art project areas. Healthy living (cake decoration), shooting sports, family and consumer science (sewing and quilting), and communication and expressive arts (leathercraft) project enrollments and exhibit numbers are on the rise and prove to be a draw to youth.

Youth involved in 4-H programming are far likelier to give back to their communities, be civically active, make healthier lifestyle choices, participate in STEM programs during out-of-school time and pursue entrepreneurship than their peers who are not involved in the program.

On the Horizon

Agriculture research efforts include two range projects: dormant season grazing to reduce fine fuels and a range cow grazing efficiency study. FCS efforts are focusing on food safety targeting youth with a Just Grill It program. Implementation of new 4-H programs, including after-school programming, day-camps and workshops, are in the works. Additionally, grant funding has been secured to grow, expand and make shooting sports more accessible to Owyhee County 4-H youth.