2020 Impact

UI Extension, Payette County focused on being a conduit for good communication during the time of isolation, economic uncertainty and apprehension for many Payette County families. In response to community needs, an emergency food directory was developed that included local food pantries, school “grab and go” sites, and Senior Center Meals-on-Wheels. The information was shared through social media and with local partners who serve the most vulnerable residents.

Programming efforts shifted from in-person to virtual. Eat Smart Idaho Nutrition Educator, Rebecca Luna, offered a series of online adult classes through Facebook using pre-recorded lessons. Luna gained adult participation and was able to graduate 75% of attendees.

Research shows that the economic, social and environmental conditions in the communities where we live, work and play also factor into our ability to live healthy lifestyles. Educator Joey Peutz has been active in supporting Teen 4-H Health Advocates as they play a role in driving positive health change. Trainings and activities were held virtually.

Peutz offered Preserve@Home, an online, five-week home food preservation course. She has continued to answer food preservation questions and help source canning resources, such as home canning lids, that have been in high demand and limited supply.

4-H in Payette County

The 4-H program in Payette County had a new look in 2020 due to the pandemic. Meetings were held via Zoom, which was a new experience for many with a steep learning curve. Payette County 4-H Leader’s Association did experience an increase in meeting attendance.

Many other events and workshops were held virtually such as Cayuse Camp (equine education), animal science lessons, and the Know Your Government conference.

Payette County hosted a summer AmeriCorps member who delivered summer day camp programming. Participants received a box of supplies for each workshop and the STEM lessons were delivered virtually.

A highlight for the 4-H program was an embryology display at the Payette County Fair, showcasing various species of eggs hatching. This display was a big hit with both youth and adult community members, some expressing it was the highlight of the fair. People came to watch them after they had been removed from the incubator into a larger pen and introduced to food, water and kept warm.

On the Horizon

Payette County 4-H received a grant through the Idaho Space Consortium for soil from Mars to grow a small plot of produce. Ten 4-H members will participate in the project.

Peutz plans on continuing to be a conduit for good evidence-based communication and education through a collaborative immunization engagement and teaching grant. She is motivated to build confidence by providing information needed to make an informed decision and giving residents an opportunity to share concerns.