MADISON COUNTY EXTENSION

Quarterly Newsletter
October—December 2014
News and information concerning University of Idaho Extension and your local Extension office

- 4-H Information
- Ag Information
- Personal & Family Finance Information
- Family and Consumer Science (FCS) Information

To be put on the Newsletter mailing list please call the extension office @ (208) 356-3191

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Inside this issue:

4-H News 2
Kandee Boice

Personal Finance— 3
Luke Erickson
Extension Educator

Ag & FCS News 4

4-H NEWS
you can use...

4-H Program Coordinator
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Dates to Remember:

- October 1—Beginning of new 4-H year. Re-enroll NOW
- October 1—Register for Ambassadors at 4honlin.com
- October 23—4-H Youth and Leader Recognition Night
- November 7-10—State Leader’s Forum
- November 15—Fall Day Camp
- November 21-23—Ambassador Training Conference in McCall
- December 1—KYG Registration Packets Available

Inside this issue:

4-H News 2
Kandee Boice

Personal Finance— 3
Luke Erickson
Extension Educator

Ag & FCS News 4

BEEHIVE FEDERAL CREDIT UNION

Beehive Federal Credit Union has been helping members with choosing affordable consumer financial services that make a difference in their lives for the last 54 years. We are the only financial institution headquartered in Madison County. In addition, we have a strong commitment to community efforts that build the family and teach the values of hard work, self-sufficiency, and reward for good efforts. There is no better program for that than 4-H. Through my personal involvement, I can tell you that something happens to a young person as they take responsibility for the care of a living creature. As they learn and apply knowledge to their care efforts, it can build a bond that allows them to feel what it is like to focus on something other than themselves during a time in their lives when they might otherwise be self-absorbed. 4-H also provides an opportunity for them to show others what they have accomplished and to receive recognition and reward for working hard and not giving up when things get tough. With the advent of cell phones and other technologies, anything we can do to balance the wonderful advantages of technology with something that brings them back to the basics of life is certainly worthwhile. I applaud those businesses that consistently support the 4-H program. Beehive Federal Credit Union stands with them in our commitment to build a generation of well round-ed young people who will be the future of our communities.

Tim Kershaw,
CFO, Beehive Federal Credit Union

T.A.L.K RETREAT
Teen Ambassador Leadership Kit

March 20-22, 2015
Albion, Idaho

Registration
http://www.uidaho.edu/extension/4h/events/events/stateevents/talk

Registration is limited to the first 48 youth who apply and who are within the ages of 13-18 on January 1, 2015. $60 for the weekend, or return the registration by February 25 to receive a $10 discount.

PNW Rules & Helmet Rule

This is a reminder that Idaho 4-H will officially adopt the PNW Horse Contest Guide, which includes the use of approved helmets by all youth participating in equine events on October 1, 2014. The official wording is “Participants in 4-H equestrian activities must wear an ASTM-SEI approved helmet whenever mounted on an equine or are in a vehicle (cart, wagon, buggy, etc.) being pulled by an equine.” There will be no exceptions to the helmet rule. If a youth chooses not to wear a helmet—they will be immediately dismissed from the event or program. The helmet rules applies to all 4-H club meetings practices, county horse show or trail rides. If the event is sponsored by 4-H, then the rule applies!!

KYG
Know Your Government
February 14-16, 2015
Registration Packets will be available December 1, 2014
8th & 9th graders

This is an opportunity for 8th and 9th graders across Idaho to learn about how our government works and participate in mock legislative and judicial process.

Ambassador Training Conference
November 21,22,23
Register at 4honlin.com

FALL DAY CAMP

November 15, 2014
Watch for more information to come.
Presented by 4-H and BYU FCS Classes
With the holiday season quickly approaching, now is the time to plan ahead before the spending spree begins. Unfortunately, many of us go into the holidays without a spending plan and it is often not until the holidays are over that we realize we overspent! Here is a list of Holiday Spending Tips that will make for a happy holiday.

- **Develop a Holiday Spending Plan:** Don't count on money you don't have and don't use credit if at all possible. Take the time to list everyone you will buy a gift for and how much you plan to spend. Add up the total and include what you expect to spend for decorating, meals, and other holiday expenses. (You can read more about developing a spending plan in the ITCT October 2009 issue located here: [http://www.extension.uidaho.edu/jerome/10-09.pdf](http://www.extension.uidaho.edu/jerome/10-09.pdf))

- **Trim Your Budget:** Look for ways to cut costs, start trimming your list.
  - Examples:
    - If you have a big extended family consider drawing names instead of buying gifts for everyone.
    - Consider buying gifts only for the children and skip the adults. Let's be honest, as adults it is Christmas all year because we usually buy want we want when we want it.
    - Use last year's decorations and don't buy any new ones.
    - Have your guests each bring a food dish to your dinner party.
    - Be creative and give homemade gifts.
    - Use the Step-Down method when buying gifts. (You can read more about the Step-Down method in the ITCT February 2009 issue located here: [http://www.extension.uidaho.edu/jerome/2-09-1.pdf](http://www.extension.uidaho.edu/jerome/2-09-1.pdf))
    - Shop for deals using ads and cruise the deal sites on the internet like SlickDeals.net, Woot.com, Dealcatcher.com, Groupon, Living Social and others for the lowest prices.
    - Stick to your Spending Plan: Track your expenses as you make purchases to make sure you don’t overspend. You could also use only cash in the amount of your spending plan and once it is gone stop spending.
    - Plan and save for next year: Add up all your expenses that you tracked and divide it by twelve. This is the amount of money you need to save each month to be ready for next year's holidays.

Implementing these steps will help you have a debt-free holiday.

**FINANCIAL ESSENTIALS SERIES**

- **October 28, 6-9 pm**
  - **6 pm—Credit Score Millionaire:** Improve your credit score
  - **7 pm—How to pay for College:** Look at all the options...imagine graduating college debt free.
  - **8 pm—Money Ninja Warrior:** Learn how financial apps can simplify your life. Fun for adults and kids.

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$3 per class or $6 for the entire series.
Last Friday the USDA released their monthly Cattle on Feed report providing estimates that overall were in line with pre-release expectations. Specifically, estimates include current inventories being down 1%, August placements being down 3%, and August marketings being down 10% from 2013. These estimates reaffirm the firmly established story of tight cattle and beef supplies.

Given the lack of surprises in this report, it is useful to re-examine the most recent estimates of closeouts offered in K-State’s Kansas Feedlot Net Return series. This report, which provides both historical and projected return information, released on September 10th indicates steers sold in July at a profit of $310/hd1. This is the largest estimated return on steers in the K-State series history. This also marks the seventh consecutive month of closeouts with profits exceeding $125/steer which is something that has never previously occurred going back to 1993 when the current K-State analysis starts. Projections for closeouts during August and September period are both over $100/head. This is consistent with several past months as these positive returns essentially reflect the substantial increase in fed cattle prices relative to expectations when feeder cattle were purchased, at levels much lower than today’s prices.

While this run of very strong returns so far in 2014 is certainly welcomed by feedlot operators, current projections should be noted and some context on the economics of recent returns should be recognized. First, animals scheduled to be sold in the fourth quarter are expected to carry much lower and actually very negative returns. This sharp reversal reflects the notable increase in feeder cattle prices and the corresponding lack of further increases in expected fed cattle prices. It is also important to note the lower economic value reflected by recent record setting $/hd returns. For instance, the July closeout net return of $310/steer is estimated to have been realized by incurring $1,881/hd in total costs. This compares to the previous record of $308/steer set in October of 2003 with total costs of $957/hd. While the recent return levels are historic on a $/hd basis, the return on investment is far from record setting. The main implication of this is that feedlot operators, lenders, and analysts would be well-served to note this, pay attention to corresponding implications of elevated capital requirements, and ultimately reflect on these factors in making purchasing/selling and related risk management decisions.

For up to date Information on Idaho Cattle and Agriculture go to:
University of Idaho Extension AgBiz
http://web.cals.uidaho.edu/

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