

2020 University of Wyoming Extension Selected Impact Statements

University of Wyoming Extension is grounded in the belief people have the ability and power to enlarge their lives and plan for their futures. Extension educators and specialists gather input from stakeholders to ensure programs are relevant to Wyoming citizens.

In 2018-19, UW Extension educators and specialists taught or facilitated:

- 2,934 educational programs totaling 6,916 hours of instruction, and
- Directly reached 243,525 adults and youth.

The Cent\$ible Nutrition Program targets audiences with limited resources. In 2019:

- 2,782 educational sessions were conducted throughout the state, and
- 9,069 adults were reached with 15,837 youth direct contacts.



Ranchers see decision support tools trump most rules of thumb

During workshops on economic tools, ranchers would relay rules of thumb they used to make decisions. Some seemed to make sense from an economics perspective, many did not. Tools from the Wyoming Ranch Tools website (<https://uwyoextension.org/ranchtools>) walked producers through calculations that illustrated many of the weaknesses. The point was to convince producers to use decision support tools and not rules of thumb to make more informed decisions. Eight workshops were in Wyoming and 24 more in other regional states. Over 750 producers have attended. — Bridger Feuz, bmeuz@uwyo.edu



Virtual program delivery hurdles barriers to 4-H participation

More than 25 livestock programs reached more than 1,200 4-H youth, volunteers, parents and extension educators via virtual delivery across seven states in 2019. Species included beef, sheep, goats and swine, and topics included selection, nutrition, health and show box management. At least one online workshop was offered to 4-H members via Zoom each month from October 2018 through July 2019. Virtual delivery helped overcome identified barriers to 4-H participation such as transportation, cost and lack of family support. — Dawn Sanchez, dawns@uwyo.edu



Financial literacy classes help northeast Wyoming residents

Wyoming's boom and bust cycles may leave some citizens scared about their financial situations. A financial literacy education curriculum was prepared and presented for at-risk clients and the general public in northeast Wyoming. Topics addressed included budgeting, spending, saving, retirement and estate planning. Twenty financial literacy classes were offered from October 2018 to September 2019. Approximately 451 people were reached via the northeast area community development educator's year-long efforts. — Michelle Vigil, mrp10@ccgov.net



Needs survey response includes youth cooking, nutrition classes

Youth cooking classes was one of the top responses on needed programing in a Lincoln County clientele needs assessment in October 2019. The Cent\$ible Nutrition Program curriculum, "Munching through Wyoming History" was presented in the Etna Elementary School afterschool program. In addition, a cooking with kid's class was offered through a partnership between the Early Childhood Coalition president and the Lincoln County Women, Infant and Children (WIC) dietitian. This one-hour class was targeted to families with children up to 6 years old. — Shelley Balls, sheap@uwyo.edu



Watershed, sediment monitoring plans written for Shoshone River

The 2016 sediment release and need for future repairs to the Willwood Dam south of Powell prompted a working group to develop a watershed plan and sediment monitoring plan for the Shoshone River between the dam and Buffalo Bill Dam. Potential sediment sources to the Shoshone River and its tributaries were identified and the impacts prioritized. The plan also identified potential projects and funding sources that might be voluntarily applied with landowners and agencies to reduce sediment loading. — Jeremiah Vardiman, jvardima@uwyo.edu



Off-road vehicle safety training spans Wyoming, Colorado

Governor Matt Mead in 2017 tasked University of Wyoming Extension with educating the agricultural sector on proper handling and safe use of recreational off-highway vehicles. During 2019, the Wyoming Good Riding Practices (WyGRiP) program was offered in 10 locations to 737 participants in Wyoming (99 participants) and Colorado (638). The team will continue to develop and offer programs. Polling has been set up in Google forms to collect long-term data from program participants. More than 75 percent of respondents indicated they will use the information to become safe, active riders. — Jeff Edwards, jedward4@uwyo.edu; Jeremiah Vardiman, jvardima@uwyo.edu; Brian Sebade, bsebade@uwyo.edu; Hudson Hill, hrrhill@uwyo.edu; Bridger Feuz, bmfeuz@uwyo.edu



Greater sage-grouse predation studied on Carbon County ranch

One proposed gap in knowledge about greater sage-grouse is the interaction between greater sage-grouse and birds of prey, such as ravens. Predator species and survival of 12 mock sage grouse nests on a Carbon County ranch were assessed. No ravens were seen when placing the nests the first year, but were noted the second year. In year one, of the six nests depredated prior to the end of the expected hatch period, three were depredated by common ravens, and three were depredated by common magpies. In year two, of the 11 nests depredated, six were depredated by common ravens, and two were depredated (and another nest suspected depredated) by common magpies. — Abby Perry, ajacks12@uwyo.edu; Derek Scasta, jscasta@uwyo.edu



EVOLVE model builds citizen skills and healthy Wyoming communities

EVOLVE (Extension Volunteer Organization for Leadership, Vitality and Enterprise) builds skills and community connections to increase confidence and comfort levels so graduates become active leaders in their communities, at work and homes. A local steering committee of community residents guides the institutes. Thirteen EVOLVE programs have been offered since moving from a single county-based program to a model replicated across the state. Community-based experiences are an important element of the program. Participants reported more board service and higher levels of civic engagement. — Mary Martin, mmmartin@uwyo.edu



UW weed scientists, collaborators target invasive plant mayhem

University of Wyoming Extension specialists and educators have provided technical assistance to partnerships across the state and region to help thwart the advance of invasive plants. The Western Governors Association has made reducing the impact of invasive plants one of its main priorities. To counter encroachment of two new invasive winter annual grasses to the state – medusahead and ventenata – UW led creation of the Northeast Wyoming Invasive Grass Working Group that has, over the past three years, responded to over 22,500 acres of these two new invaders. — Brian Mealor, bamealor@uwyo.edu, Dan Tekiela, dtkiela@uwyo.edu



Teen volunteer camp training ultimately benefits Wyoming youth

Most Wyoming counties host or co-host summer 4-H camps that reach about 1,265 youth. Teen counselors plan, lead, organize, teach and evaluate camps and are group and cabin leaders, friends and mentors. 4-H professionals developed the first Wyoming 4-H Counselor Camp, a statewide training weekend at the Wyoming State Fairgrounds, at which 21 teen counselors from six counties participated. Addressed were teamwork and leadership; child and adolescent development; camper behavior management; risk management; teaching; facilitation; understanding organization; and camp environment — Amber Armajo, amwall@uwyo.edu; Megan Brittingham, mbrittin@uwyo.edu; Warren Crawford, crawford@uwyo.edu; Kimberly Fry, kbell10@uwyo.edu; Mary Louise Wood, mwood8@uwyo.edu



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