

## 2020 Annual Report of Accomplishments and Results

Idaho

University of Idaho

### I. Report Overview

The NIFA reviewer will refer to the executive summary submitted in your FY 2020 Plan of Work located in the Institutional Profile. Use this space to provide updates if needed.

#### 1. Executive Summary (Optional)

No updates. See POW 2020.

Note: we consolidated our Critical Issues for the 2020-2024 POW. We can better meet our stakeholder needs because of this restructure. It will also make it easier to demonstrate ROI to the public. See POW for more details.

Program highlights:

- Stakeholder input led to a new project for managing emerging plant diseases and translucent scale in onions. This project was supported by a \$17,000 grant. We developed rapid diagnostics for *Stemphylium* leaf blight, determining cause of infection in over 20 fields in 2020.
- Four 4-H Shooting Sports LMS modules were launched nationwide, and 850 participants completed training before quarantine.
- Teton Valley local food movement grew despite pandemic, aided by faculty efforts through Teton Food and Farm Coalition. Ex: Teton Valley Farmers Market grew in 2019 by 49% in annual sales and maintained that through 2020, despite decreased vendors due to COVID.

## II. Merit and Scientific Peer Review Processes

The NIFA reviewer will refer to your 2020 Plan of Work. Use this space to provide updates as needed or activities that you would like to bring to NIFA's attention.

Process	Updates ONLY
1. The <u>Merit Review Process</u>	No updates. See POW 2020-2024
2. The <u>Scientific Peer Review Process</u>	No updates. See POW 2020-2024

### III. Stakeholder Input

The NIFA reviewer will refer to your 2020 Plan of Work. Use this space to provide updates as needed or activities that you would like to bring to NIFA’s attention.

Stakeholder Input Aspects	Updates ONLY
<p><b>1. Actions taken to seek stakeholder input that encouraged their participation with a brief explanation</b></p>	<p>See POW 2020-2024—though the pandemic inspired faculty to seek input through tech methods, in more rural areas, we invited input using more “old-school” means in rural counties with unreliable internet: newspapers, bulletins, local radio station spots, etc. We also wrote individual letters directly to stakeholders inviting input.</p>
<p><b>2. Methods to identify individuals and groups and brief explanation.</b></p>	<p>No significant updates. See POW 2020-2024.</p>
<p><b>3. Methods for collecting stakeholder input and brief explanation.</b></p>	<p>See POW 2020-2024. In addition, this year’s collection methods were unique because of the pandemic. We used more screen-to-screen options where the internet was reliable—thus more chatbox and zoom surveys were utilized to collect information. We had weekly office hours via zoom so individuals could communicate their needs.</p>
<p><b>4. A Statement of how the input will be considered and brief explanation of what you learned from your stakeholders.</b></p>	<p>See POW 2020-2024. Also, we gathered input about wanting more screen-to-screen efforts in the future---ex: webinars for professional development or online learning modules, except for Master Gardeners, who want hands-on classes.</p> <p>Many stakeholders expressed more need to feel self-reliant; there was a significant increase in need of small farm livestock and gardening programming, small or home-based business training, and personal finance classes. Financial limitations and time constraints were big factors this year as well.</p>

**IV. Critical Issues Table of Contents**

No.	Critical Issues in order of appearance in Table V. Activities and Accomplishments
1.	Food Production Systems
2.	Horticulture and Small Farms
3.	Community Development
4.	Forest, Range and other Natural Resources
5.	Health and Wellness
6.	Water
7.	4-H Community Youth Development

**V. Activities and Accomplishments**

Please provide information for activities that represent the best work of your institution(s). In your outcome or impact statement, please include the following elements (in any order): 1) the issue and its significance (e.g., who cares and why); 2) a brief description of key activities undertaken to achieve the goals and objectives; 3) changes in knowledge, behavior, or condition resulting from the project or program’s activities; 4) who benefited and how. Please weave supporting data into the narrative.

No.	Project or Program Title	Outcome/Impact Statement	Critical Issue Name or No.
1.	<b>Farm Stress Management</b>	According to the Idaho Suicide Prevention Research Project, farmers are at an increased risk of suicide, a trend found nationwide as agriculture-related stress has up-ticked among producers. Some examples of their challenges include weather issues, large debt loads, burdensome government regulations, crop harvesting, disease problems, equipment breakdowns, labor challenges, low crop prices, and family disagreements regarding operation and management. In 2020, major disruptions in the food supply chain occurred due to the Covid-19 pandemic. For farmers, these factors are coupled with the strong tradition and expectation that comes from running a farm that has been in the family for generations. There is a unique pressure to maintain the family business and profound grief if it fails.	Food Production System

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		<p>Farmers nationwide face pressures in this context, but studies show that only a few have the resources and coping skills to manage the increasing farming stresses.</p> <p>Agriculture producers need to learn about stress management, suicide prevention, and healthy coping skills, even though the subject of suicide is a taboo subject and is uncomfortable for many people to address and discuss.</p> <p>To meet producers' need to learn about this issue, how to address it, and find resources and support; we trained over 300 participants in farm-stress management. Our target audience was ag producers and their families.</p> <p>About 31.8 percent of participants reported a change in knowledge. Some of the practices that participants reported to change as a result of their learning includes better stress management, working on stress-relief tactics, watching and understanding stress better in their employees and themselves, picking three helpful words to use to reduce stress levels, changing the way they think about sources of stress, breathing to handle stress, being aware and watching for signs of stress, and how to approach and help those who are spiraling down into depression due to stress. For details, please see the impact statement available at the following link:  <a href="https://www.uidaho.edu/-/media/UIDaho-Responsive/Files/Extension/admin/Impacts/2020/38-20-Iellis-farm-stress.pdf?la=en&amp;hash=4B8DA53502A577B343A6532D01D461B695EF819F">https://www.uidaho.edu/-/media/UIDaho-Responsive/Files/Extension/admin/Impacts/2020/38-20-Iellis-farm-stress.pdf?la=en&amp;hash=4B8DA53502A577B343A6532D01D461B695EF819F</a></p> <p>In addition to the program discussed above to address farm stress management, UI Extension trained 16 Extension professionals in Mental Health First Aid with \$50,000 in support provided by local foundations.</p>	
<p>2.</p>	<p><b>Sustainable Small Farming &amp; Ranching Livestock Production Workshop</b></p>	<p>The number of beginning farmers and ranchers in Idaho is growing, but many of these new producers do not have an agricultural background or have limited farming and/or ranching experience. Beginning farmers need to increase their knowledge and skills for sustainable crop production.</p> <p>To provide beginning farmers and ranchers knowledge they need to succeed, we held the Sustainable Small Farming and Ranching Livestock Production Workshop.</p> <p>Of the 39 participants who reported on their workshop experience: 37 participants increased knowledge of potential livestock enterprises; 38 participants increased</p>	<p>Horticulture and Small Farms</p>

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		<p>knowledge of enterprise budgets; 39 participants increased knowledge of crop production planning; 38 increased knowledge of soil management; 37 increased knowledge of using the web and social media to market their farm; 38 increased knowledge of farm biodiversity.</p> <p>Thirty-nine participants indicated a change in behavior to select the best mix of crop enterprises for their farm; 37 indicated they would create crop production plan skills and are prepared to develop crop enterprise budgets; 37 participants indicated they were prepared to manage their soil. 35 participants indicated they would adopt a practice and prepare a draft of their whole farm plan, and 33 participants plan to put crop production ideas into practice.</p>	
<p><b>3.</b></p>	<p><b>Artisan Trails of North Central Idaho and Southeastern Washington</b></p>	<p>Rural communities are home to artists, small farmers, museums, and other place-based businesses that reflect the culture and creativity. But the number of place-based assets in rural communities tends to be low – for example: one winery, a museum or a gallery, or a restaurant serving locally sourced foods. Communities do not have the critical mass of sites that would attract visitors – often termed as – ‘The Withering of Rural America’.</p> <p>Idaho regions need to link small towns together through marketing their food, art, and heritage assets, so the region becomes a destination for visitors, and the region's residents become more aware of and increase support for local businesses and organizations.</p> <p>To help local communities increase visitation, increase income, promote regional assets, and increase business retention and expansion, we designed a website for Two Degrees Northwest: Artisan Trails of North Central Idaho and Southeastern Washington. This is a major redesign of the regional arts program that began in 2012.</p> <p>With the website and the print material redesign, we targeted our audience of motels, chambers of commerce, museums, external travel groups, travel writers, magazines, and local businesses and consumers.</p> <p>In 2020, 80 local businesses joined this cooperative effort, including restaurants, galleries, museums, art organizations, wineries, breweries, bed and breakfasts,</p>	<p>Community Development</p>

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		<p>historical sites, coffee shops and event centers. Membership includes a website- and print-guide listing, advertisement in an online annual events calendar and news and events blog, feature stories about sites, video tours of member sites, and promotion via Facebook.</p> <p>Since 2012, we have distributed 15,000 regional guides and received universally positive feedback from participating businesses. Because of the 2020 redesign, we anticipate an increased awareness and income for this region.</p> <p>Reference: <a href="http://www.2dnw.org">www.2dnw.org</a></p>	
<p><b>4.</b></p>	<p><b>Family Forest Stewardship Programs</b></p>	<p>The average annual timber harvest of Idaho Panhandle forests is over 167 million board feet, valued at over \$100 million milled. Idaho family forests (owners of five acres or more) have provided 28 percent of the Idaho’s timber harvest since 1997, and roughly 44 percent of the forests are held and managed by 23,796 family forest owners.</p> <p>But family forests tend to be more concentrated near key locations for ecosystem functions (e.g., along lakes, streams, and at increasingly rare low elevation wildlife habitats). Therefore, family forest owners need better working knowledge in forest management since family forests are critical to timber supply, water, wildlife, and many other shared values.</p> <p>We provided several forest stewardship programs to give family forest owners an understanding of forest ecology, silviculture, and related forest-management techniques. Thus, they can sustainably produce more wood and biomass and simultaneously improve forest health, water quality, wild-life habitat, and other forest values.</p> <p>Based on our survey, 158 of participants reported adoption of improved practices like monitoring for forest insects, disease, or animal damage issues; 42 participants attended additional forestry education programs. Eighty-two participants can now identify Idaho trees, and 155 favor tree species that resist insects and disease. Twenty participants now harvest non-timber forest products for personal use; 59 monitor and manage weeds or non-native species; and 57 reduced unwanted vegetation.</p> <p>About 51% of participants reported increased knowledge of landscaping for fire prevention; 100% of participants reported increased knowledge of stewarding their</p>	<p>Forest, Range and other Natural Resources</p>

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		<p>forest, and 88% reported increased knowledge of identifying Idaho trees. Other 42% reported increased knowledge of forestry cost-sharing, and 49% increased knowledge of backyard forests.</p>	
5.	<p><b>New Plymouth Diabetes Prevention Program</b></p>	<p>Every year an estimated 8,000 people in Idaho are diagnosed with diabetes, a disease that costs them 2.3 times more in medical expenses than those who do not have diabetes—an estimated total of \$1 billion in 2017. About 427,000 people in Idaho (33.8% of the adult population) have prediabetes (blood glucose levels higher than normal but not yet high enough to be diagnosed as type-2 diabetes).</p> <p>Pre-diabetes may transition to type-2 diabetes. But research shows that people who complete a diabetes-prevention lifestyle-change program are one-third less likely to develop type-2 diabetes. There is a need to provide access to more of these programs in rural Idaho, where residents may be at risk for pre-diabetes.</p> <p>We delivered the Center for Disease Control’s National Diabetes Prevention Program to the residents of New Plymouth, Idaho as a means of preventing prediabetes. The National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases at the National Institutes of Health invested \$1,055,127 in Idaho as an educational grant to support the diabetes prevention program.</p> <p>Of the 21 participants who started the year-long program, only 12 completed (57% retention rate). Participants who completed the program, lost a total of 94.6 lbs. These participants cut their risk of developing type-2 diabetes by 58% (71% for people over 60 years old). We anticipate that it will cut down the future medical costs of the program participants.</p>	Health and Wellness
6.	<p><b>Water saving technique in Gooding Community Garden</b></p>	<p>Many Gooding County citizens lack access to fresh produce, and they supplement their food needs through food banks, sub-kitchens, and other types of food access. However, most of these organizations don't have access to fresh vegetables and need support from diverse donators. This need was augmented during the COVID-19, where volunteer organizations serving 'in-need people' were stretched severely.</p> <p>Additionally, some citizens want to grow their own vegetables, but they don't have space and required knowledge to do so. To help Gooding County citizens produce their</p>	Water

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		<p>food and to provide local food distributors fresh produce for community members who struggle with food access— we operated the Gooding Community Garden demonstration unit.</p> <p>In 2020, ten volunteers started the urban-setting vegetable production garden. They applied urban agricultural techniques and adopted conservation methods to reduce water use, prevent water contamination and nutrient loss. Ten visitors and volunteers at the garden consulted with UI Extension about low-watering grasses, cover-crops, nutrient retention techniques, and ways of saving water.</p> <p>During the production season, the community garden donated more than 6,550 lbs. of fresh produce to seven institutions who helped about 300 citizens meet their daily access to food (specifically fresh vegetables).</p>	
<p>7.</p>	<p><b>4-H Shooting Sports LMS Modules</b></p>	<p>In the 4-H Shooting Sports program, we train adult volunteers to provide a safe environment where youth gain skills for safe and responsible use of firearms and archery equipment. Instructors complete a 12- to 15-hour training for each discipline they teach and three to four hours of education on positive youth development principles and risk management.</p> <p>To facilitate accessibility, most instructor training sessions are held on weekends to mesh with employment schedules. However, fulfilling the certification hours often requires substantial travel and lodging expense over a two- to three-day period – often paid for personally.</p> <p>These constraints limit the available pool of prospective instructors, which in turn limits the number of youths who can be reached. The National 4-H Shooting Sports Committee also raised concerns regarding consistent delivery of essential information. While detailed lesson plans existed to guide the discipline-specific training segments, none existed to these other topics.</p> <p>Thus, we needed to reduce travel costs and limit time away from home for instructor training while at the same time ensuring effective communication in all topics.</p> <p>To enable increased instructor engagement, we developed LMS (learning management system) modules to be completed online prior to travel to in-person discipline training.</p>	<p>4-H Community Youth Development</p>

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		<p>A team from Idaho, Oregon, Nevada, Hawaii, and Florida collaborated to address this need.</p> <p>We developed four 25-45 minute LMS modules and launched December 1, 2019. In just three months, until pandemic suspended in-person meetings, over 850 prospective instructors in 23 states completed the training. As some COVID restrictions eased toward the end of 2020, we began to see increased module use in anticipation of future in-person training.</p> <p>The evaluation data from module participants has been encouraging. Participants have specifically noted the user-friendly interface, the flexibility of the self-paced modules, and the ultimate savings of time away from home and travel costs. If a participant paid even one night less in hotel costs, it would be an average savings of more than \$90 per participant, based on 2020 US averages.</p> <p>In addition, this project was recognized as the National winner of the Educational Technology Award at the 2020 National Association of Extension 4-H Youth Development Professionals conference this fall.</p>	
<p><b>8.</b></p>	<p><b>Bull Evaluation and Selection</b></p>	<p>Many Idaho beef producers run their individually owned cattle herds together on a range unit. In that situation, females and breeding bulls from different herds comingle. If anyone's herd has a low-quality bull, it affects the cattle quality of all the future cow herds in the range unit. A low-quality bull also costs ranch operators a considerable amount of money because they must be replaced.</p> <p>Therefore, beef producers need to select high-quality bulls for their breeding operations and their operating costs.</p> <p>To help local producers improve overall cattle quality, we developed a bull evaluation and selection program as well as a committee to determine bull evaluation and selection standards. We reexamine standards yearly. The evaluations include overall health, condition, soundness, EPDs, structure, and correctness. Bulls are also required to pass health and fertility tests before being allowed on the range.</p>	<p>Food Production System</p>

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		<p>We delivered 3 educational events in 2020 to 35 beef producers; 20 of them were tribal beef producers.</p> <p>All program participants (100%) reported and demonstrated the adoption of bull-selection techniques as indicated by reduced rejection rates and increased grade ratings. Bull quality has improved dramatically since program inception. For 2020, only two bulls (1.08%) were rejected. In addition, 57% of graded bulls received an "A" grade. This was an 18% improvement from the 2019 ratings. Our program reduced the incidence of rejected bulls by 75%, saving producers an average of \$18,000 per year in bull replacements.</p>	
<p><b>9.</b></p>	<p><b>Community Food Systems COVID-19 Resources</b></p>	<p>When the COVID-19 pandemic hit Idaho, small farmers and ranchers faced uncertainty about access to markets, transitioning their products online, and safely interacting with customers. Local food systems experienced supply and distribution challenges, increased demand for food-access resources, and safety concerns.</p> <p>An audience of Idaho small acreage farmers and ranchers, restaurants and food businesses, and other food-access organizations indicated a need for COVID-19-specific educational programs and support for individuals, businesses, and organizations as they transitioned to an online presence.</p> <p>Teaming with our community partners (including Washington State University), we hosted roundtable discussions to meet this need. The participants were independent restaurants, cafes, bars, other business owners, mayors, state legislators, and the Idaho State Department of Commerce about COVID-19 impacts and resources.</p> <p>We regularly updated a COVID-19 resources page and offered a three-part webinar series on best practices for operating community gardens, farmers markets, farm stands, and deliveries during the COVID-19 pandemic.</p> <p>We also offered webinars on starting a CSA (Community Supported Agriculture) program, selling products on Etsy, looking at opportunities for food businesses beyond COVID-19, backyard poultry production, and taking eggs to market. We hosted sessions to discuss 1) farmers-market COVID-19 operations-support, 2) online sales, and 3) how</p>	<p>Horticulture and Small Farms</p>

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		<p>to access local foods from farms, farmers’ markets, and directly from farm-to-table (for restaurants).</p> <p>We provided direct COVID-19 support to 1,867 program participants who used the information to evolve their businesses during the pandemic.</p> <p>The program will continue to meet existing and emerging needs throughout north Idaho. The program will also work with community partners to plan post-pandemic activities allowing Idaho’s food-based businesses to rebound.</p> <p>In addition, our response to COVID with over 100 new webinars posted on UI Extension website for people to view anywhere at any time it is convenient for them.</p>	
<p><b>10.</b></p>	<p><b>Food Safety Newest Series with Trinity Lutheran Church Partners</b></p>	<p>Prior to 2019, the food insecurity rate in Canyon County was over 10.9%, and the poverty rate was 20%. Because food access was limited, community members increased their need and interest in growing and preserving their own food. In the last seven years, UI Extension partnered with the Trinity Lutheran Church to provide training in Idaho Victory Gardens and education on food-preservation and food-preparation.</p> <p>To help community members expand the usefulness of produce for year-round storage and consumption, we structured an education series on ‘safely preserving food’, funded by a Domestic Hunger Grant.</p> <p>We trained volunteers in food safety and food preservation, and created a cookbook containing recipes made from six ingredients or less, including produce commonly grown in southwest Idaho gardens. These volunteers provided a three-part hands-on food-preservation series to community members.</p> <p>Thirteen volunteers were trained in 2013-2019, and they delivered seven hands-on workshops to more than 100 participants. As a result, participants’ gained skills and changed their behaviors.</p> <p>Of the 100 plus participants, over a five-year period, 72% reported knowledge gain, change in food safety and/or food preservation practices, and increased confidence.</p> <p>As a result of this program,</p>	<p>Community Development</p>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 92% of participants indicated an increase in knowledge on how to adjust for altitude when processing food in a boiling water canner</li> <li>• 91.6% indicated an increased knowledge in foodborne illness</li> <li>• 91.4% indicated understanding the difference between foods you can safely process in a pressure canner and in boiling water canner</li> </ul> <p>Participants changed the following practices as results of the program:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Before the program, 84% of participants reported that they did not use research-based recipes and recommendations when canning foods. After the program, all participants (100%) reported that they planned to use up-to-date research-based recommendations.</li> <li>• Before the program, 62% did not add acid (lemon juice, citric acid, vinegar) when canning tomatoes. After the program, all participants reported that they would add acid according to recommendations when canning tomatoes.</li> </ul> <p>Most participants indicated that they would practice the learned skills as well as pass it to family and friends.</p> <p>See impact statement:  <a href="https://www.uidaho.edu/-/media/UIDaho-Responsive/Files/Extension/admin/Impacts/2020/2-20-jpeutz-safe-food-partnership.pdf?la=en&amp;hash=024F01D2390CD93774088EE4CF1B77D472AEF9D1">https://www.uidaho.edu/-/media/UIDaho-Responsive/Files/Extension/admin/Impacts/2020/2-20-jpeutz-safe-food-partnership.pdf?la=en&amp;hash=024F01D2390CD93774088EE4CF1B77D472AEF9D1</a></p>	
<p><b>11.</b></p>	<p><b>Mink Creek Watershed E. Coli Study</b></p>	<p>High levels of <i>E. coli</i> in Mink Creek exceed regulatory limits for human safety and recreation. Idaho DEQ implicated livestock grazing as a major contributor for <i>E. coli</i>, but human recreation activities are prevalent on this stream.</p> <p>To discover the source and extent of <i>E. coli</i>, we needed to quantify stream contamination throughout the summer when recreation and cattle grazing both occur. The goal was to provide educational information to U. S. Forest Service, Mink Creek Watershed ranchers, Idaho DEQ, City of Pocatello, and the general public.</p>	<p>Forest, Range and other Natural Resources</p>

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		<p>With DNA technology, we initiated a research project to identify the main contributors to contamination.</p> <p>The study found that humans were responsible for 59% of <i>E. coli</i> exceedances; cattle caused 6% of exceedances; human and cattle combined caused another 6%; and other (wildlife, canine, etc.) caused 29%.</p> <p>Based on the study findings, the Caribou-Targhee National Forest management team initiated a management plan to assist with recreation impacts and has met with grazing permittees to address livestock impacts.</p> <p>This story was featured in the Idaho State Journal newspaper. An educational video on this project was produced by 'Life on the Range' and is available at <a href="https://youtu.be/MfcEUQzf6p8">https://youtu.be/MfcEUQzf6p8</a></p>	
<p><b>12.</b></p>	<p><b>Eat Smart Idaho</b></p>	<p>Nearly 11.2% of Idaho's population lives in poverty, and 8.3% receive SNAP benefits. Of the lowest income brackets, the highest percentage of individuals have low fruit and vegetable intake and low physical activity. Two-thirds of adults and 30% of youth are overweight or obese. One in six children and 12.3% of Idahoans experience hunger or food insecurity due to a lack of resources.</p> <p>The limited-resource individuals and families in Idaho need to improve diet and physical activity. We offered Eat Smart Idaho programs to promote healthy eating and physical activity.</p> <p>After the program participation, 83% improved diet quality (i.e., eating red, orange, and dark green vegetables and fruits, drinking less soda, fruit drinks, sweet tea, and sports drinks).</p> <p>About 59% of participants reported increased physical activities (e.g., exercising for at least 30 minutes, engaging in workouts to build and strengthen muscles, and making small changes in their lifestyle to become more active).</p> <p>Nearly 66% of participants reported adopting one or more food-safety practices (i.e., washing hands before food preparation, cleaning equipment and surfaces after cutting</p>	<p>Health and Wellness</p>

		<p>meat or seafood, not thawing frozen food at room temperature, and using a meat thermometer).</p> <p>Twenty-eight percent of participants also improved food security practices (e.g., not eating less than you need, so there would be more food for the family and ensuring that they have enough money to buy food).</p> <p>Seventy-five percent reported they would plan meals before going to the store; 79% will make a list before grocery shopping, and 72% will compare unit prices before choosing foods; 80% will eat less fried food, 65% will eat less fast food, and 51% will drink fewer sugar-sweetened beverages. Sixty-four percent planned to use the nutrition facts label while choosing foods at the store and will include vegetables, fruits, grain, protein, and milk in their daily diet plan.</p> <p>Eighty-two percent of the youth (grades K-5) increased knowledge to choose foods consistent with Federal Dietary guidelines, 53% gained skills on handling food safely, 43% improved knowledge about the importance of physical activity to become healthy.</p> <p>Eighty-eight percent of youth (grades 6-12) also adopted Federal Dietary Guidelines, 58% adopted food safety practices, and 66% increased physical activities.</p> <p>Sixty organizations implemented changes to food drives or food pantries to improve access to healthy foods by the public. All participating organizations adopted at least one components of the Eat Smart Idaho Healthy Pantry/Healthy Food Drive toolkit, including posting MyPlate signage (75%), information on converting to a choice pantry (12%), healthy food drive lists (67%), recipe pillar (57%), recipe demonstrations, and nutrition education classes (48%).</p> <p>Twenty-six schools made changes in school lunches to nudge kids in making healthier food choices. On average, 6 changes were made per school as a part of Eat Smart Idaho's Smarter Lunchrooms Movement.</p> <p>As a result of the program, 434 people reported saving \$12.4 in their food dollars/person/month.</p>	
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<p><b>13.</b></p>	<p><b>Idaho Drought Severity Assessment</b></p>	<p>Agricultural production represents a major part of the Idaho's GDP ( including food processing), and water is a critical resource for production. Drought can significantly reduce the amount of water available to the agricultural industry and impacts both production and producer's income.</p> <p>But there is a need to assess the location and severity of drought so federal decision-makers can designate counties affected by drought and provide relief funding. This assessment affects Idaho producers, US Drought Monitor, and USDA drought declaration decision-makers.</p> <p>For Idaho producers to become eligible for federal drought assistance, we served on the Idaho Drought Committee and assessed drought conditions throughout the year. We made recommendations to the US Drought Monitor for their weekly drought mapping, which serves as a primary source of information for decision-makers for drought declarations.</p> <p>Because of our year-long project tracking drought conditions, the USDA designated 25 Idaho counties as drought disaster counties. As a result, producers in these counties became eligible for federal disaster assistance. These counties represent 77% (\$5.39 billion) of Idaho's total agricultural sales per year.</p>	<p>Water</p>
<p><b>14.</b></p>	<p><b>Dabble in Dissection</b></p>	<p>By 2024, 36,000 STEM careers in Idaho will require post-secondary training. Yet, due to low exposure to STEM careers, Idaho youth are less aware of opportunities, requirements, and skills needed to fill these jobs.</p> <p>Homeschool educators in southern Idaho asked the University of Idaho Extension to develop STEM programs that engage youth in experiential learning focused on biological sciences.</p> <p>We developed a 'Dabble in Dissection' program in partnership with Oregon Extension to meet the 4-H Science goals of engaging youth in science. It was designed to spark a curiosity in marine biology, veterinary medicine, and health science.</p> <p>Participating youth dissected eight specimens while learning safe and accurate lab skills and using dissecting tools. They learned about taxonomy and the identification and</p>	<p>4-H Community Youth Development</p>

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		<p>examination of anatomical structures. The program helped youth to build confidence and develop their critical-thinking skills.</p> <p>We taught over 100 youth (ages 10-18) in a homeschool setting. Participants reported increased knowledge in anatomy and dissection skills. Youth provided positive feedback for increased confidence, learning, exposure, and intention to pursue a career in science.</p> <p>Based on our experience with the current program, we are developing a curriculum that could be utilized in various settings, such as in-school enrichment and out-of-school opportunities. Next year, we are planning to offer this program at six different sites in Idaho and Oregon.</p> <p>See impact statement: <a href="https://www.uidaho.edu/-/media/UIDaho-Responsive/Files/Extension/admin/Impacts/2020/11-20-aruth-dissection.pdf?la=en&amp;hash=484918E9D0C57F76E64FE9AAE20CD44384446CA1">https://www.uidaho.edu/-/media/UIDaho-Responsive/Files/Extension/admin/Impacts/2020/11-20-aruth-dissection.pdf?la=en&amp;hash=484918E9D0C57F76E64FE9AAE20CD44384446CA1</a></p>	
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