

EXTENSION TRENDS: GEM/BOISE COUNTY

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2021 By the Numbers

- **2,935** direct contacts
- **1,116** youth participants
- **65** volunteers
- **5,416** volunteer hours

UI Extension Educator



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2021 Impact

Small acreage landowner support continued in 2021 with site visits and consultations with 15 landowners with questions from pasture management and livestock grazing design, to livestock care and weed control. Of the individuals assisted, three went on to register for longer course offerings and four reported back the positive impact that the information provided has had on their land management. These individuals are overcoming struggles with weed problems, improving their pastures with beneficial grasses and increasing their carrying capacity with management intensive grazing practices. One gentleman owns 39 acres that he's been renting to a local farmer for many years. He questioned if he was getting the appropriate amount of rent from the lease and had desires to go a different direction. Educator Rebecca Mills connected him with Idaho Land Link and another colleague that works closely with ag economics. He responded with the following via email: "Thank you for the information you sent, I appreciate it very much. I think I will be able to work through the issues and get to a much better place than I am at now with the information you provided."

4-H in Gem and Boise County

A highlight of the Gem and Boise counties 4-H program are the 4-H School Enrichment classes taught at Gem County elementary schools. In May 2021, 16 teachers were surveyed regarding the impact of the school enrichment activities. All teachers responded as being somewhat satisfied to extremely satisfied with the following: age appropriateness of the activities; connection of activities to other curriculum covered in the classroom; educational value of activities; and creativity of activities.

Most teachers (70%) strongly agreed that the hands-on delivery method improves learning and retention; that staff members are caring adults who create an inclusive environment and foster positive relationships with students; that the activities promote independent thinking and problem solving; and that the activities are not only an asset in their classrooms but would be an asset to other elementary classrooms. These indicators align with established youth development research about the power of 4-H.

The data from this survey was used during budget negotiations with the Gem County Commissioners resulting in the expansion of the 19 hour/week position that oversees and delivers the in-school enrichment program to a full time salaried/benefited position resulting in a budget increase of \$35,618 (\$21,102 in salaries and \$14,516 in benefits).

On the Horizon

In 2022, the Gem and Boise counties 4-H program will be hosting a group of 4-H members from Michigan in a State-to-State Exchange. There will also be expanded offerings with small acreage courses with the addition of on-farm poultry tours held across the state.