

impact

University of Idaho Extension programs that are making a difference in Idaho.

Partnership vital for successful agriculture week celebration

AT A GLANCE

Promoting agriculture and teaching about agriculture in every school, in every grade in Lemhi County is possible because of community partnerships.

The Situation

In 2008, the Lemhi County Advisory Committee asked University of Idaho Extension to reach out to the schools and teach youth where their food comes from. In 2009, the first Agriculture Week Celebration was held. It was apparent that to reach every youth in the county with an educational program, partnerships needed to be developed.

Our Response

The first Agriculture Week Celebration was held in 2009. UI Extension faculty and staff partnered with Lemhi County Cattle and Horse Growers Association and Lemhi County Cattlewomen to offer educational programming. We were able to reach about 50% of the youth in the county.

The second year, 2010, we brainstormed a list of potential partners. The “requirements” included being involved in some facet of agriculture, willing to teach a workshop, support financially or assist with community events promoting agriculture. We also realized we needed more volunteers. We continued to expand the list of potential partners and volunteers so we could reach our goal of programming in every grade in all eight schools and reach homeschool families.



Farm Bureau partners with committee and Salmon FFA to host the agriculture Olympic. Photo by: Shannon Williams.

Program Outcomes

For Agriculture Week Celebration 2023, our partnerships included 27 various organizations. These organizations donated money, time, resources or a combination of the three. Over 250 volunteer hours were utilized to make all the agriculture week programming and events happen.

As we prepared for agriculture week 2023, we conducted a partner and volunteer survey to find out how and why organizations and people participated in our Agriculture Week Celebration. The survey had five questions and was sent to 50 people, 25 of whom responded. Regarding how organizations and people participated, nine made monetary contributions; 13 assisted or taught educational workshops; 15 helped with

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the breakfast; 12 helped fill giveaway bags for the breakfast; and seven contributed information and items for the bags. Some of the why's for participating include:

- Ag awareness in our area is very important due to our ever-changing population.
- Agriculture is an important part of life here in Lemhi County; know where our food comes from, and the complex nature of the food system is so important for everyone to learn.
- Provides an opportunity to promote one of Lemhi County's cornerstone industries to students and community members who our organization may not be able to independently reach.
- Seeing kids excited!
- Because ag is important and no one is going to tell our story but us.
- I love sharing my passion about local food, animals and the ag lifestyle to our youth.
- Teaching agriculture to students who otherwise have little exposure is important.
- Because agriculture is so important, and it is the right thing to do.

Forty volunteers logged over 250 hours to assist with the educational workshops in eight different schools and a homeschool group in four days. Partners and volunteers were also asked how long they had been involved in the Agriculture Week Celebration. Table 1 shows those results.

Table 1: Years of participation in ag week.

Years	1st year 2023	1 to 3 years	4 to 7 years	8 to 11 years	12 to 14 years
	2	3	6	3	8

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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The Future

Each year the Agriculture Week Celebration committee brainstorms ideas for more partners and volunteers to invite. After reviewing the survey, we will continue to reach out to agriculture-related organizations and businesses as partners. We will also be inviting people to be part of the planning and team. With more partners and volunteers, we can add more content to programs and continue to reach every youth in Lemhi County.

Cooperators and Co-Sponsors

- Ag West
- Bureau of Land Management
- Forest Service
- Harley Wallis
- Idaho Beef Council
- Idaho Rangeland Resource Commission
- Lemhi County Cattle and Horse Growers Association
- Lemhi County Cattlewomen
- Lemhi County Farm Bureau
- Lemhi Regional Land Trust
- Lemhi Soil and Water Conservation District
- Salmon Valley Stewardship
- University of Idaho College of Agricultural and Life Sciences
- University of Idaho Extension, Lemhi County
- University of Idaho Nancy M. Cummings Research, Extension and Education Center
- Upper Salmon Basin Watershed Program