



# University of Idaho Extension

## Owyhee County

MARCH 2024

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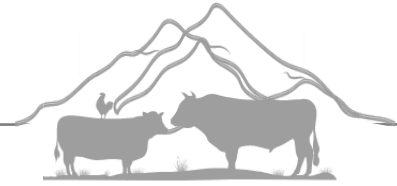
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# Cattlemen's Corner

## Beef Newsletter



### Pasture Seed Selection

- K. Scott Jensen

Spring is just around the corner. The weather is starting to warm (I think) and folks are starting to think about renovating and/or seeding pastures. Over nearly 24 years of Extension work, the most common question I have been asked regarding pastures is... "What kind of seed should I plant?" It appears that some folks think that there is some magical species of grass that when planted will require little if any water, be extremely productive, support cattle, horses, or sheep for year-round grazing, and maybe even cut and bale itself in the event you would like to produce some hay.

While that sounds a little facetious, the truth of the matter is that we all want a grass that is highly productive with minimal inputs. Another bit of truth that can be hard to believe. It really doesn't matter what species of grass that you plant... over time you will get just what you manage for. Reality is that proper management is key to maintaining productive, high quality pastures.

With that being said, there are some things that definitely should be considered when selecting grass/pasture seed. Here are a few for your consideration:

1. What is the availability of water? Will it be irrigated? If so, how frequently and what will be the duration of the irrigation? Different grass species have different water requirements.
2. What type of soil do you have? Does it have a lot of clay or is it sandy? What is the pH of the soil? Does it drain well? Does it stay wet for extended periods of time? While most grasses can grow in different soil types, some are better adapted to certain conditions such as high sodium soils and/or alkaline soils. Some plants require soils that are well drained and others don't seem to mind "wet feet".
3. Do you want to include a legume in the pasture mix? Legumes such as alfalfa, cicer milkvetch, birdsfoot trefoil, and clovers can fix nitrogen from the atmosphere and help reduce the overall need for nitrogen fertilizer. They do however limit options when it comes to chemical weed control.
4. How will the pasture be managed? Will it be rotationally grazed? Is it mainly intended for hay? Some plant species are very grazing sensitive such as timothy while others are much more grazing tolerant.

5. What is the general climate like in regard to heat and cold? Timothy for example does best in cooler temperatures. It is often planted as part of a pasture mix in the Treasure Valley but seldom persists. It just can't take the heat.

There are some great resources available to learn more about plant species to utilize in pasture mixes. One source that I frequently use is Tech note 24 published by the National Resources Conservation Service. It was newly revised in 2023 and can be found at

<https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/plantmaterials/idpmctn14002.pdf>. Another good source of information is the book Pasture and Grazing Management in the Northwest PNW 614. It is available online at

<https://www.lib.uidaho.edu/digital/rangecoll/items/rangecoll54.html> or by hard copy at the local Owyhee County Extension Office.

Pasture planting should be well planned. A little research into plant species coupled with some good management will go a long way in helping you to have a quality, highly productive pasture.

*K. Scott Jensen - UI Extension Educator  
County Chair Owyhee County, ID*

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## Reproductive Performance

*- Tyler O'Donnell*

Reproductive performance is one of the most important factors to consider when making cull decisions in our herds. When cows do not have a live calf on their side, they are costing money rather than making money for the operation. Reproductive performance can be affected by a variety of factors, including environment, health, management, and nutrition to name a few. To effectively manage our performance, understanding how these factors affect reproduction is important. Environmental factors that affect reproductive performance can include temperature, stressors, and parasites to name a few. Although we cannot control the weather, providing extra feed in cold events and reducing stressors when possible can make a difference.

Health factors that influence performance include disease or infection. To mitigate risk, find a vaccine schedule and follow it. Some disease and infection cannot be handled with vaccines, and that is where an effective vet relationship becomes important. Management of pregnant females immediately before calving is crucial to ensure that you do not have abortions.

Stress can induce abortions in cattle, especially in late-term animals. Keep late

term females in as low stress situations as possible, avoiding things like shipping or processing in the last 30 days. Perhaps one of the most important factors to consider when considering what affects reproductive performance is nutrition. Without proper nutrition, the fetus cannot grow to its potential, and puts the mother at risk. Cows should have a body condition score of 5 going into calving, and heifers a 6. Moving up or down on the BCS scale does not happen overnight, so recognizing when to put the weight on can save you a few dollars down the road. The cheapest time to put weight on a female is after she has dried off, and before giving birth to the next calf. With costs continuing to rise, keeping young cows in the herd longer is becoming more important. Studies at UNL beef showed that on average it takes 3-4 years for a cow to payoff her cost of heifer development. With so much time invested in heifers, it only makes sense to do what we can to improve their reproductive performance, and stay in the herd longer.

*Tyler O'Donnell - UI Extension Instructor  
Washington County, ID*

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## **Keeping Beef Production Sustainable**

*- Cheyanne Myers*

The national public concept of the beef industry has been influenced by the increase in the public's awareness of animal welfare, human nutrition and health considerations, and the environmental impact of beef production. For instance, published studies have shown a link between the consumption of saturated fatty acids and heart disease, causing some consumers to choose other protein sources over beef. Also, concerns about the potential negative impact of animal production on the environment pressures beef producers to develop and implement practical strategies in reducing this impact. Sustainable beef production includes three pillars which are social, economic, and environmental.

Being socially sustainable includes keeping consumer perception in mind while running your operation. This includes the safety of your employees, the treatment and welfare of your animals, the use of judicious antibiotics, and environmental awareness. You can improve your social sustainability by being as open as you can with your consumers. When selling products, inform your buyers of how and where the animals are raised and what products were used on your animals including medications or feedstuffs.

Economic sustainability of beef production includes implementing strategies that can support the economic success of your operation without having a negative impact on your social and environmental aspects.

These strategies include working with your local veterinarian to implement a herd health plan. Decreasing the potential of sickness or pregnancy loss can increase your gains at the end of the season. Implementing a controlled grazing system to increase the efficiency of your pastures/rangeland can help reduce issues with overgrazing which can damage your pastures. Overgrazed pastures tend to produce undesirable plants and weeds leading to greater cost of production. Evaluating the cost of feedstuffs. Are you taking advantage of local by-products? Start by asking local bakeries or mills for production leftovers like old bread, cookies, French fries, citrus pulp, and distillers' grain. The use of by-products can decrease feed cost while providing the nutrients your cattle require. Using alternative feedstuffs can also reduce food wastage which contributes to the environmental impact of beef production.

Environmental sustainability has been a hot topic in recent years. With the growing population, producers are challenged with increasing food production without increasing environmental degradation. It is important to keep in mind your carbon footprint, water usage, wildlife habitat impacts, soil and rangeland health, and the efficiency of your cattle to convert feedstuff into consumable products.

Whether you are raising cattle for a large commercial operation, or manage a smaller personal operation, it is your responsibility as a beef producer to continue educating yourself on the newest advancements in animal nutrition, genetics, and production practices.

*Cheyenne Myers . - UI Extension Educator  
Canyon County , ID*

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## Veterinarians Serve as Information Source to Beef Producers

- J. Benton Glaze, Ph.D.

Cow-calf producers have a variety of choices when it comes to obtaining information related to managing their operations, including Extension/university personnel, veterinarians, allied industry representatives, salespeople, fellow producers, publications, and the internet. In an effort to improve production efficiency, enhance product quality, and improve/protect animal health, producers seek information on a variety of topics including breeding/genetics, reproduction, nutrition, animal health, and marketing. As management decisions are made, producers need the most relevant and accurate information. Each producer has their own preference when it comes to identifying their key sources of information.

On a fairly regular basis, the National Animal Health Monitoring System (NAHMS) conducts surveys to gain an understanding of beef cow-calf health and management practices in the United States (U.S.). One goal of the surveys has been to identify producers' preferred sources of information related to a variety of beef cattle management and production topics. Results of the surveys provide some insight into the information channels producers seek as they work to improve their knowledge and understanding of key topics.

In 2007, the NAHMS survey included producers in 24 of the major cow-calf states in the U.S. Responses represented 79.6% of US cow-calf operations and 87.8% of U.S. beef cows. Producers were asked to rank the usefulness of sources (Extension/university personnel, veterinarians, trade magazines, producer associations, producers, salespersons, consultants, media, internet) of general beef cattle information as being very important, somewhat important, or not important. The top five information sources when ranked by producers as very important were veterinarians (53.1%), other producers (23.7%), Extension/university personnel (20.7%), trade magazines (16.3%), and producer associations (13.2%). In 2017, the NAHMS survey included producers in 24 of the major cow-calf states in the US. Responses represented 78.9% of U.S. cow-calf operations and 86.6% of US beef cows.

Producers were asked to rank the usefulness of sources (Extension/university personnel, veterinarians, trade magazines, producer associations, producers, salespersons, consultants, media, internet) of general beef cattle information as being extremely important, very important, moderately important, slightly important, or not important.

The top five information sources when ranked by producers as extremely important and very important combined were veterinarians (47.6%), other

producers (34.8%), trade magazines (17.5%), Extension/university personnel (16.1%), and the internet (15.1%).

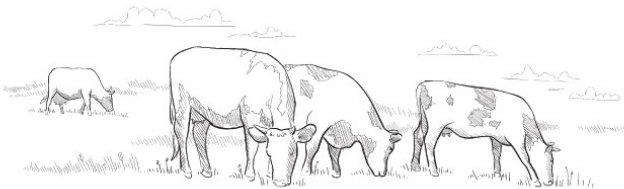
Probably not a surprise, the percentage of producers ranking the internet as a very important source of information in 2007 was lower (6.9% versus 15.1%) than in 2017.

In addition to serving as a source of information to producers, veterinarians can provide guidance/direction as producers plan and implement animal health protocols (disease prevention, injury and illness treatment, biosecurity) for their beef cattle herds. To effectively and efficiently use the available knowledge and information, producers should have a working relationship with a veterinarian.

In a recent study (MSU, 2022), cow-calf producers from across the U.S. were surveyed to identify factors associated with veterinarians' involvement in cattle health and production record management. More than 14,000 cow-calf producers were anonymously surveyed, and 3,741 completed surveys were returned and recorded. When producers were asked if veterinarians were influential in the management decisions of the cow-calf operation, 62.9% responded with an answer of yes. As a part of the survey, producers identified various services that veterinarians were paid to provide to the cow-calf operations. They included emergency calls (77.2% of operations), herd work (68.4% of operations), pharmaceutical sales (62.6% of operations), and regulatory work (54.4% of operations). Additionally, the survey asked producers to identify their primary sources of cattle health, treatment and vaccination information. The top three sources of this type of information were veterinarians (63.6%), livestock media (7.9%), and livestock drug company representatives (7.4%).

It is clear from these surveys that cow-calf producers view veterinarians as a valued source of information and use veterinarians for a variety of services. All producers should work to establish a relationship with a veterinarian and ensure the information sources, guidance, and animal health protocols are in place to achieve the greatest level of productivity from their operations.

*J. Benton Glaze Ph. D. - UI Extension Beef Specialist  
Twin Falls County, ID*



# Owyhee County Family Issues



Suriñe Greenway -  
UI Owyhee County Extension Educator

Home food preservation rates have drastically increased recently. While this increase in food preservation is wonderful for Cooperative Extension, this increases the chances there may be a foodborne illness associated with improperly home-canned products. Sometimes new or improperly educated food handlers may be unaware of the scientific basis for different methods recommended for safe home food preservation. This fact, coupled with internet-based access that may be a source of misinformation for consumers, creates the need for the Extension to provide easily accessible, up-to-date, research-based recommendations for clientele. This is why the UI, Owyhee County Extension Office offers many hands-on and virtual food safety and food preservation workshops. If you are looking to learn more, check out one of our upcoming opportunities today!

## FREE CLASSES VIA ZOOM!



**FREE CLASS VIA ZOOM**

### BOILING WATER CANNING *made easy*

Learn important steps to safely process food from your garden for shelf stable storage.

**THURSDAY, MARCH 14TH**  
**CLASS STARTS AT 12PM MT 11AM PT**

Register at: [bit.ly/boilingwater24](https://bit.ly/boilingwater24)

**Other course offerings available  
at [uidaho.edu/food-safety](https://uidaho.edu/food-safety)**

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# FREE CLASSES VIA ZOOM!



FREE CLASS VIA ZOOM

## PRESSURE CANNING - *made easy* -

Learn the basics to safely use your pressure canner to process shelf-stable foods!

**THURSDAY, APRIL 18TH**  
**CLASS STARTS AT 12PM MT 11AM PT**

Register at: [bit.ly/pressure24](https://bit.ly/pressure24)

**Other course offerings available  
at [uidaho.edu/food-safety](https://uidaho.edu/food-safety)**

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Many studies support that cooking and eating at home are associated with better diet quality. Similarly, research suggests that youth and adult involvement in food preparation at home positively impacts dietary quality and eating patterns in the home. Lastly, research also supports that involving individuals (both youth and adults) in food preparation can increase their willingness to try new foods and increase the positive choice to consume meals containing fruits and vegetables. Individuals who cook have significantly greater confidence in their knowledge and skill in overall food preparation skills, cooking practices, cooking attitudes, and diet quality than individuals who do not prepare meals. Learned cooking and meal-planning skills can translate into educating and assisting those around the food preparer to also adopt and establish healthier dietary behaviors. Family and Consumer Sciences hands-on programs aim to give participants the necessary food handling skills and knowledge required to increase their confidence to cook healthier and more affordable meals for themselves and others.

*Suriñe Greenway - UI Extension Educator  
Owyhee County, ID*

# LECTURE/DEMO CLASS

~Presented by~

SAND HOLLOW COMMUNITY CENTER

## Lecture & Demo CHORIZO MAKING

This class will cover the background of chorizo making and participants will learn how to safely make chorizos at home. Samples will be provided as part of a light meal.

**\$20 PER PERSON**

**TUESDAY, MARCH 12TH  
5:30 PM - 7:00 PM**

**SAND HOLLOW COMMUNITY CENTER  
17708 OASIS RD, CALDWELL, ID 83607**

*for reservations contact*

**CHRIS ROBINSON (208)573-7877  
SHFD@SANDHOLLOWFIRE.COM**

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A study conducted on parenting found key factors that should be considered. Of parents who participated in the survey, 91% stated that parenting was their greatest joy, while 73% of those that responded felt that parenting was their biggest challenge. A total of 69% of parents say that if they knew more positive parenting strategies, they would use them. If you are a parent or guardian of youth ages 5 – 13 and you are looking for tips and techniques to manage your parenting responsibilities, consider the FREE parenting series that will be offered at the Marsing School District HUB, located at 205 8th Avenue West, Marsing, ID. In this four-part series offered from Monday, April 15th to Monday, May 6th, strategies to better understand the role of parenthood, child development, routines and rituals, positive reinforcement, problem solving and much more will be shared with class participants during each session. If you are a caregiver looking for a way to learn more while implementing better management techniques with children, then this program is for you.

Limited space is available in this free program,  
call 208-896-4104 if you have questions or  
to register copy/paste [bit.ly/24parenting](http://bit.ly/24parenting)

# ~ FREE ~ Parenting Series

Join us in this four part series to learn strategies you can personalize for your family. This series is designed for families with children ages 5-11.

**RSVP by April 12th**  
~Copy & Paste~  
**bit.ly/24parenting**

**MONDAYS**  
**APRIL 15TH - MAY 6TH**  
**5:30 PM - 7:30 PM**  
.....

**THE HUB: MARSING SCHOOL DIST.**  
**205 8TH AVE W MARSING, ID**

**I** **University of Idaho**  
**Extension**

(208)896-4104 | owyhee@uidaho.edu



## Topics:

- Intro to Parenting Styles
- Child Development
- Routines and Rituals
- Goals and Objectives
- Positive Reinforcement
- ABC and Consequences
- Responsibilities and Settings
- Problem Solving

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# IN PERSON & HANDS-ON



HANDS-ON CLASS

## FLAVORFUL FLATBREADS

Learn about the different flatbreads popular around the world. At this class, participants will learn inside tips, and tricks while making their own flatbread!

**\$25 PER PERSON -OR- \$40 FOR TWO**

[bit.ly/24flavorfulflatbreads](http://bit.ly/24flavorfulflatbreads)

**SATURDAY, MAY 18TH**  
**9:30AM - NOON & 1:00PM - 3:30PM**  
**OWYHÉE COUNTY EXTENSION OFFICE**  
**238 8TH AVE W MARSING, ID**  
**(208)896-4104**

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*Suriñe Greenway - UI Extension Educator  
 Owyhee County, ID*

# 4-H FOOD BOOTH HELP

Interested in managing the 4-H Food Booth  
 at the Owyhee County Fair?

Duties include:

- Food booth operation during Fair
- Safe food handling
- Supervising 4-H youth working in the booth
- Basic keeping
- approx. 60 hours throughout the Fair



The Food Booth Manager will be compensated for their time and efforts.

For more information, please email [owyhee@uidaho.edu](mailto:owyhee@uidaho.edu).



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# OWYHEE COUNTY 4-H



Protected Under  
18 U.S.C. 707

## 2023 Owyhee County 4-H Distinguished Service Award Recipient - Sharla Jensen



Please join us in congratulating Sharla Jensen for being the 2023 Owyhee County 4-H Distinguished Service Award Recipient!

Sharla has served 4-H as a leader for 23 years. Her dedication to Owyhee County 4-H follows an active service that she held while in Canyon County 4-H prior to her current Organizational Club Leadership role. Her club, Barnyard Brigade, offers a wide variety of projects including Livestock, Family and Consumer Sciences, and many more, which is no easy feat. Sharla has established a quality foundation for this long-

standing club that regularly goes above and beyond to create opportunities and support for her club members to learn and grow while completing 4-H projects and expanding their knowledge.

In addition, she works to develop youth as individuals as she encourages and enhances youth into becoming positive and active young leaders. The Distinguished Service Award is intended to grant the highest honor that a 4-H volunteer can receive. As Owyhee County 4-H considers who embraces and exemplifies the true embodiment of what a positive role model in the 4-H Youth Development program is, we are confident that Sharla Jensen is the most deserving volunteer of this prestigious award.

Thank you, Sharla, for your ongoing support and dedication of 4-H youth in Owyhee County!

*Madison Anderson . - Owyhee 4-H Coordinator  
Owyhee County , ID*



# DISTRICT LIVESTOCK QUIZ BOWL

March 23rd , 2024

Marsing Elementary- 207 8th Ave. Marsing, ID

Check in: 11 a.m - Contest begins: 12 p.m

## WHAT IS THE DISTRICT LIVESTOCK QUIZ BOWL?

The livestock quiz bowl is an opportunity for youth to show their livestock knowledge in a friendly but competitive setting. Teams of 4 to 5 youth prepare by studying the provided state resources. On the day of the contest teams go head to head answering questions in a bracket style tournament. This is a great opportunity for youth to practice before the state contest in June. Senior teams who compete at state may qualify for the national contest.

## REGISTRATION DUE MARCH 15TH



Cost: \$20 per team- Lunch will NOT be provided.

For complete rules, see the Idaho State 4-H Livestock Quiz Bowl Contest Rules.



For help accessing resources reach out to your local extension office or Rebecca at [rmills@uidaho.edu](mailto:rmills@uidaho.edu) or 208-365-6363

SCAN TO REGISTER!

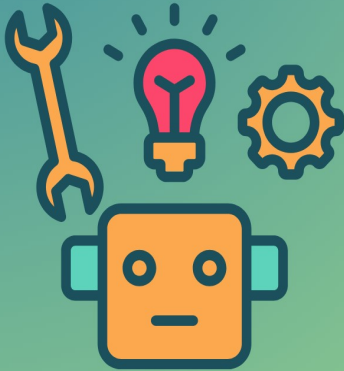
[www.bit.ly/SDLivestockQuizBowl](http://www.bit.ly/SDLivestockQuizBowl)



It is the policy of the University of Idaho Extension System that all persons shall have equal opportunity and access to the programs and facilities without regard to race, color, sex, religion, national origin, age, marital status, parental status, sexual orientation, or disability. Persons with disabilities have the right to request and receive reasonable accommodations. Please complete this [form](#) to assist in evaluating the reasonable accommodation request at least two weeks prior to the event. Accommodation applications cannot be approved without supporting documentation. Submit this electronic request form by sending the application and documentation to Center for Disability Access and Resources 875 Perimeter Drive Moscow, ID 83844-4257 [cdar@uidaho.edu](mailto:cdar@uidaho.edu) Phone 208-885-6307, Fax 208-885-9404



# SPRING BREAK DAY CAMP SERIES



**MARCH 25-27**

**THE HUB  
205 8TH AVE WEST  
MARSING**

**AGES 10-14**

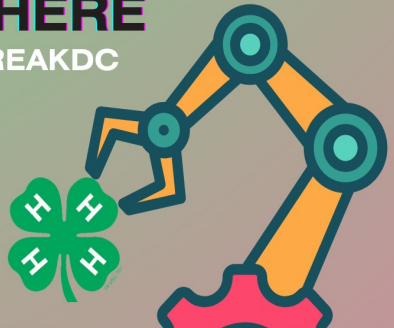
**\$25**

**JOIN US FOR THREE DAYS OF LEGO  
ROBOTICS, COMPUTER SCIENCE,  
PROGRAMMING & MORE!**



**REGISTER HERE**  
[BIT.LY/24SPRINGBREAKDC](https://bit.ly/24SpringBreakDC)

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4 - H F R I D A Y

MARS

BASE 4-H CAMP

Join us on a mission to Mars to learn STEM skills like mechanical engineering, physics, computer science, and agriculture!

APRIL 12, 10AM-2PM

AGES 10-14

No cost to attend. Lunch is provided.

Register on ZSuite

OWYHEE COUNTY EXTENSION OFFICE  
238 8TH AVE W MARSING, ID 83639  
208-896-4104 | OWYHEE@UIDAHO.EDU

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# Southern District TEEN RETREAT

APRIL 13 | HORSETHIEF YMCA CAMP

AGES 13-18

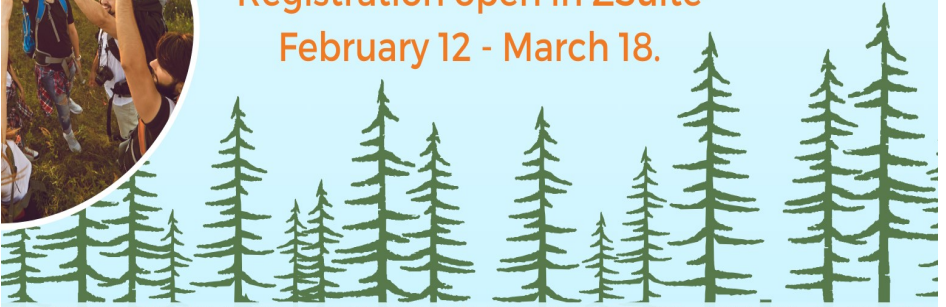
Join us for a day of  
leadership activities,  
rock climbing, & more!

\$75 registration fee.

Transportation is available.

Registration open in ZSuite

February 12 - March 18.



The University of Idaho has a policy of nondiscrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, age, sexual orientation, gender identity/expression, disability, genetic information, or status as any protected veteran or military status. Persons with disabilities have the right to request and receive reasonable accommodations. Please complete this form: [reasonable-accommodation-for-4-h-parent-complete.pdf\(uidaho.edu\)](https://www.uidaho.edu/center-for-disability-access-and-resources/4-h-parent-complete.pdf) to assist in evaluating the reasonable accommodation request at least 2 weeks prior to the event. Accommodation applications cannot be approved without supporting documentation. Submit this electronic request form by sending the application and documentation to Center for Disability Access and Resources 875 Perimeter Drive Moscow, ID 83844-4257, [cdar@uidaho.edu](mailto:cdar@uidaho.edu), Phone 208-885-6307, Fax 208-885-9404



## 4-H ADVENTURE CAMP

**June Kids  
Camp**

**Dates:** June 10-13

**Ages:** Grades 3rd-5th

**July Kids  
Camp**

**Dates:** July 9-12

**Ages:** Grades 3rd-5th

**July Teen  
Camp**

**Dates:** July 22-26

**Ages:** Grades 6th-8th

Teen Camp: \$360

Kids Camp: \$310

Located at Cascade lake 4-H Camp  
in Donnelly, Idaho

For more information  
and to register go to

[www.4Hadventurecamp.com](http://www.4Hadventurecamp.com)



Activities at Camp Include

- Tie Dye
- Archery
- Kayaking
- Crafts
- Gaga Ball
- And much More!

Youth do not have to be members of  
4-H to attend camp

The University of Idaho has a policy of nondiscrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, age, sexual orientation, gender identity/expression, disability, genetic information, or status as any protected veteran or military status. Persons with disabilities have the right to request and receive reasonable accommodations. Please complete this [form](#) to assist in evaluating the reasonable accommodation request at least two weeks prior to the event. Accommodation applications cannot be approved without supporting documentation. Submit this electronic request form by sending the application and documentation to Center for Disability Access and Resources 875 Perimeter Drive Moscow, ID 83844-4257 [cdar@uidaho.edu](mailto:cdar@uidaho.edu) Phone 208-885-6307, Fax 208-885-8404.





AmeriCorps

# GET. THINGS. DONE.

## Serve as a 4-H AmeriCorps Positive Youth Development Youth Instructor In your community!

*Deliver hands-on S.T.E.A.M. education to Idaho's youth. Serve as a positive role model while networking and gaining professional development!*

### Benefits

Quarter-Time Living Allowance:

**\$6,000.00**

Segal Education Award:

**\$1,956.35**

Service Term:

**May - August 2024 (450 hours)**



For more information, Contact  
Natasha Tienhaara at  
ntienhaara@uidaho.edu or  
(208) 454-7614

### Apply Now!

<https://forms.office.com/r/Ruy8EAwB1j>



The Governor's Commission on  
Service and Volunteerism

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