



Diverse Idaho

Understanding tribal sovereignty

Emotional debate has flared throughout Idaho at different times and places about the rights of Native American tribes and of non-tribal members who live on or near reservations. To help create perspective for such issues, University of Idaho Extension educators in North Idaho developed a class to explore the legal and cultural history of tribal sovereignty.

Valdasue Steele of Benewah County Extension and Laura Laumatia of Coeur d'Alene Indian Reservation Extension obtained a grant from the Indian Land Tenure Foundation to buy reference materials and supplies for their course.

The educators' goal was to provide a factual base for discussion within the St. Maries community. "I'm not sure we changed anyone's mind about any of the issues, but we made our level-best effort to give them unbiased information," Steele said.

Surveys of students before and after they took the class showed their knowledge about sovereignty, federal policies, tribal jurisdiction over natural resource management, and other topics nearly doubled.

Benewah County Commissioner Terry Doupè said the class provided him "knowledge, history and an understanding of why the laws were written as they were, not that I necessarily agree."

The first class held in St. Maries was at times contentious. "The complexity and the constant change add to the emotional nature of the issues. Neither side feels these issues have been resolved. What we wanted to do was to give some perspective on how things got to this point," Laumatia said.

UI Extension educators are offering the class again this spring in Plummer.

Contact Steele at vsteele@uidaho.edu or Laumatia at laural@uidaho.edu.

Calf-rearing workshops in Spanish

More than 90 percent of workers on southern Idaho dairies are Hispanic. Building on its well-attended Spanish-language milkers' schools, University of Idaho Extension developed a new course for Hispanic dairy workers. More than 120 Spanish speakers got certificates of completion for Raising Healthy Calves, last summer in Blackfoot, Caldwell, and Twin Falls workshops. More are planned this year.

Attendees learn calving area cleanliness, physiology of birth, calving assistance,

basic neonatal management, colostrum feeding, calf health, nutrition, and calf housing.

"This is a natural progression of our Spanish-language educational programs," says Mireille Chahine, UI Extension dairy specialist in Twin Falls, who headed a team of six UI specialists/educators and a Pfizer animal health manager to create the program. Workshops cost \$10 to \$15, including lunch.

Contact Mireille Chahine at mchahine@uidaho.edu.

DID YOU KNOW?

1.4% IDAHO'S Native American population, ranking Idaho among the top 10 states.

*Source: NIAF Indicator web www.indicators.niaf.org

New 4-H curriculum draws on the arts to illustrate cultures

The arts are the heart of the world's cultures. That's why a curriculum team of extension educators from six states, coordinated by the UI State 4-H Office, chose the arts to help kindergarten through 8th grade youth explore their cultural differences and similarities.

Qué Rico! La Cultura, was released through the National 4-H Cooperative Curriculum System in fall 2005. Que Rico! literally means "How rich!" or "Cool!"

Activities in all 148-pages are described in Spanish and English. As participants emboss metals, carve wooden figurines, design mosaic tiles, draw murals, and make pole puppets, they examine cultural issues.

Project writer/editor Brian Luckey, Canyon County UI Extension educator, expects it to be popular in after-school, camp, and club settings. He hopes it will draw Hispanic families to 4-H's youth-development benefits.

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