



## College Snapshot

### UI Extension programs reach 1 in 4 Idahoans, 2004 survey shows

The University of Idaho's College of Agricultural and Life Sciences faculty and staff marked another year of outstanding service, research, and teaching to benefit the people of Idaho. Tough choices lie ahead as the college and its stakeholders identify signature programs and adopt strategies to meet Idaho's needs despite tight finances.

UI Extension remains central to the college's statewide reach. Specialists, extension educators, and staff in 42 counties find extension activities reach at least one 1 in 4 Idahoans, a 2004 survey shows. Education is offered in workshops, conferences, mini-courses, on the web, in news releases and publications. Two examples demonstrate program effectiveness through collaboration with other agencies.

Extension co-sponsored a Senior Extension Nutrition Program that helped 160 senior citizens learn ways to protect their health through a series of home visits in Idaho's five northern counties. It paired extension expertise with Coeur d'Alene-based Aging and Adult Services. Healthier seniors need less medical care and can stay longer in their own homes. The program won a national award and is a model for other communities.

Children of Idaho National Guard troops now deployed in Iraq and elsewhere are collaborating with members of 4-H—another UI Extension program—at a half dozen Idaho locations to create a statewide support network for military families left behind. 4-H works with National Guard family assistance centers in 7 Idaho counties.

Other UI Extension efforts—to name a few—helped potato producers deal with a limited water supply, the cattle industry trim known sources of loss, and grain growers cut herbicide use—all efforts tied to helping Idaho agriculture remain competitive globally.

### Research helps Idaho first; also the world

Top priority for CALS' researchers and educators is always to help Idaho producers and students. Others from around the world also find the college's research important and invest in partnerships. The Idaho Research Foundation, the university's research and technology transfer arm, in 2004 signed licensing agreements with Korean and Australian companies eager to use technologies protected by UI patents.

One such product may help dairy producers cut losses from infectious mastitis, costing an estimated \$245 per infected cow per year. The licensing deal with

Korea's LG Life Sciences Ltd. draws on the work of Idaho Agricultural Experiment Station Director Greg Bohach and several fellow UI researchers, who investigate the *Staphylococcus aureus* bacterium.

UI leadership in pioneering irrigation practices attracted Australian company Computronics and the University of Georgia, who teamed up to develop a precision ag irrigation system for center pivot sprinklers. Realizing a key part of the idea had been patented in 1993 by UI researchers Jeff Stark and Ian R. McCann led to the licensing deal.

### DID YOU KNOW?

**\$19** MILLION. Estimated grants and contracts won by UI CALS faculty and staff for 2005.

\*Source: College of Agricultural & Life Sciences Overview 2004

### Distance education growth, award winning faculty mark 2004

College enrollments remained strong during the Fall 2004 semester with 875 undergraduate students and 211 graduate students—9 percent above 2000 figures. In addition, distance education grew, with 187 different courses serving 802 students on the web or via video conferencing from Sandpoint to Idaho Falls.

Excellent research translates into excellent teaching, too. Carolyn Hovde Bohach won the American Society for Microbiology's prestigious Carski Foundation Distinguished Undergraduate Teaching Award, given to only one professor nationally each year.

She teaches, maintains an active research lab studying *E. coli* in cattle, and is associate director of the new statewide IDeA Network for Biomedical Research Excellence, funded by a \$16.1 million grant from the National Institutes of Health. It promises research and educational opportunities for students and faculty at 11 Idaho institutions.