



## Idaho Hispanics

### UI Extension adjusts programs to meet needs of Hispanic Idahoans

As Idaho's Hispanic population increases, UI Extension educators and specialists for agricultural, community, family, and youth programs are tailoring their classes, publications, and websites to meet needs of people who are often adjusting to a new language and culture.

Programs are especially visible in southern Idaho's 6 counties with 20 to 40 percent Hispanic population—Cassia, Clark, Jerome, Minidoka, Owyhee and Power. And they are growing in 11 counties with 10 to 19 percent Hispanic populations—Bingham, Blaine, Canyon, Elmore, Fremont, Gooding, Lincoln, Payette, Teton, Twin Falls, and Washington.

Most participate in Extension Nutrition Program (ENP) and the Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP), community-based education programs for low-income adults and children on nutrition, food safety, and management of food and financial resources. During 2004, UI Extension nutrition advisors worked with nearly 2,280 Spanish speakers. Supervised by UI Extension educators, ENP/EFNEP also reaches youth with basic nutrition and food safety messages taught in schools and at youth clubs.

Audrey Liddil, UI Extension's EFNEP coordinator shares comments from one Power County couple: "Tomas and Zenaida, from Mexico, are trying to cope with the American lifestyle. Married for 28 years, they told us the lesson about how to manage money really helped them, as did the class on food safety."

Websites in Spanish: Increasing numbers of UI Extension websites are now bilingual, and UI contributes to the national Extensión en Español website, hosting dozens of bilingual information sheets on 13 broad topics ranging from agriculture and disaster preparedness to health, safety, work, and money. Click on the en Español button at [www.uidaho.edu/extension/](http://www.uidaho.edu/extension/).

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### Hispanic 4-H club helps improve English skills, grade point averages (GPAs)

Hispanic youths often enter kindergarten and the lower grades from homes where only Spanish is spoken. These children may struggle in school and are often at high risk to drop out.

Gooding County's UI extension educator Diana Christensen, after consulting with county school districts and the extension advisory board, identified poor English literacy as a barrier to school achievement. With funding from the Laura Moore

Cunningham Foundation and the Idaho Community Foundation, the Hispanic 4-H/school mentoring program in 2003 started working with kids individually and in classes, in all grades. And a bilingual 4-H club started.

Christensen reports teachers are enthusiastic as they see raising grades for participating students, sometimes from D's and F's to A's and B's. Contact Christensen at [dianac@uidaho.edu](mailto:dianac@uidaho.edu).

## DID YOU KNOW?

**17** COUNTIES in southern Idaho report populations that are 10 to 40% Hispanic (2003).

\*Source: Northwest Area Foundation Indicator Website

### Agricultural IPM skills training en Español

UI Extension began teaching agricultural courses in Spanish in 2001 to help Hispanic farm workers better understand concepts important to their health, safety, and effectiveness. Since many integrated pest management (IPM) field decisions related to pesticide use are made by farm laborers—how much to apply, when to apply, and so on—this training is critical to help maintain profitable operations by avoiding input costs, resource loss, and environmental degradation.

Seven extension educators and specialists working in three of the UI Extension's four Idaho districts staged workshops at UI potato and sugarbeet schools, and at on-farm workshops in Caldwell, Burley, American Falls, Pocatello, Idaho Falls, and Grace. In the past four years, more than 700 Hispanic farm workers have completed workshops. Each included lectures on proper application techniques, pesticide safety, soils, entomology and disease management. Test scores after training average 75 percent, much better than pre-test scores of about 7 percent. Contact Reed Findlay at [rfindlay@uidaho.edu](mailto:rfindlay@uidaho.edu).