



Diverse Idaho

UI Extension programs support Native Americans on Idaho reservations

Grants from the USDA's Federally-Recognized Tribes Extension Program (FRTEP) have funded University of Idaho Extension support on Idaho's Fort Hall and Coeur d'Alene reservations for 15 and 5 years respectively. Some 2006 highlights:

Fort Hall Reservation. UI Extension's Danielle Gunn assisted the Shoshone-Bannock buffalo herd manager and demonstrated projects with cattle producers to electronically tag 250 buffalo and 150 feed cows to aid marketability and record keeping. She hopes to help improve cow pregnancy rates through an estrous synchronization program.

Hit last year by West Nile Virus—"We lost a few horses, one young tribal member is still in a wheel chair, and a baby almost died,"—Gunn consults on a combination of education and mosquito abatement plans. Finally, she teaches 4-H horsemanship to tribal youth and is halfway through some 16 workshops to help tribal members understand and effectively deal with the American Indian Probate Reform Act of 2004 (AIPRA) to preserve family land holdings. *Contact Danielle Gunn at dgunn@uidaho.edu.*

Coeur d'Alene Tribe. Priorities for UI Extension's Laura Laumatia include collaborating with tribal leaders on career renewal, wellness, and offering a family life skills course for lower-income families. She also contributes to after school enrichment efforts and works with UI Extension colleague Valdasue Steele, Benewah County, to raise awareness of land tenure and sovereignty laws. *Contact Laura Laumatia at laural@uidaho.edu.*

Nez Perce Tribe. UI Extension has submitted a grant to fund an FRTEP educator on the Nez Perce Reservation. Currently Kerry Sanford, Nez Perce County 4-H coordinator, offers 4-H programs in Lapwai each summer. *Contact Kerry Sanford at ksanford@uidaho.edu and grantwriter Steele at vsteele@uidaho.edu.*

Junior Master Gardener's Latino expansion blends gardening with nutrition and health

Treasure Valley Latino youth are getting a taste of the Idaho Junior Master Gardener program through the vegetables they love best. With its focus on fighting obesity-related health threats, JMG's bilingual expansion teaches its young participants how to know and grow nutritious foods. They learn how to incorporate familiar foods like salsa into healthy diets, how to read food labels, and why exercise is essential. This year's goals include individual and neighborhood gardens in Nampa and Boise.

"They especially enjoy planting because it's very hands-on," says Shannel Stinner, AmeriCorps/Vista volunteer and the program's coordinator.

To deliver the program, JMG's partners include the Hispanic Cultural Center of Idaho, Boys and Girls Clubs, Nampa and Boise School Districts, Neighborhood Housing Services, Padres Unidos, Dia del Niño Celebration, Idaho Department of Education, and Edwards Greenhouse.

Contact Kevin Laughlin at klaughlin@uidaho.edu.

DID YOU KNOW?

2% OF IDAHO'S population (29,297) is Native American. Of that number 20,064 consider themselves to be ONLY Native American.

*Population Division, U.S. Census Bureau, 2005

New audiences for Twin Falls area 4-H programs

Newcomers to the Twin Falls area from countries like Bosnia, Columbia, and Turkey are eager to improve their English skills, so they enroll in College of Southern Idaho basic English classes. But because of a lack of childcare, about half the enrollees failed to show up and others brought children to the adult class.

UI Extension educators used funds from an Idaho Extension urban grant to launch a 4-H program for children aged 5 to 12. While parents studied English, their children also practiced English while singing, learning about nutrition, stitching hats on a sewing machine, making/eating marshmallow rockets, and learning how to care for pets or livestock.

"4-H has been a great gift. It changes lives. It makes all the difference," says Melissa Joelson, co-coordinator for the ESL program. "I don't know what we'll do when funds run out," the end of spring semester 2007, she said.

Contact Cindy Kinder at ckinder@uidaho.edu.

