

Administrative News from Glen:


March contained both the National Extension Director's Association meeting and the main meeting of the Western Region Extension Directors. There was a lot of good impassioned discussion at both gatherings. It appears that foremost on the minds of Extension Directors across the country (after budget) are leadership for the 4-H program on the national level and eXtension. The 4-H issue is a complex one. There is a perception that USDA, through our agency NIFA (National Institute of Food and Agriculture), is not able to provide the national level leadership needed for the 4-H program. There is an effort to create a more formal leadership coalition of the Land-Grant Universities (state extension services), the agency (NIFA) and the National 4-H Council. I'm pleased with the direction of the process at this point. The State Program Leaders and Extension directors are engaged to provide some leadership to the process of creating this 4-H leadership partnership at the national level and I believe all of the partners are well intended and want the best for the program. To be real honest, I'm not sure of the impact of the current rather benign national leadership on the University of Wyoming 4-H program anyway. As this develops, Johnathan or I will keep you posted. Certainly if you have a question about this, give me a call.

The discussion of eXtension played prominently in the National and Western region meetings because of an emerging view among some directors that the eXtension Web-based program is lacking impact in their states. Clients and Extension professionals are just not using it; eXtension links don't come up prominently in online search engine inquiries such as Google. I am trying to develop my own perspectives on eXtension so that I can provide input as decisions are made going forward. If you have views on eXtension, please share them with me; phone call, e-mail or in-person will work for me. I look forward to hearing from you on both of these important issues.

I am sure enjoying the spring weather.
Safe Travels, Glen

Personnel News:

Teton County 4-H/Youth Development Educator



We have a new 4-H/Youth Development Educator in Teton County. **Amanda Zamudio** will join the UW Extension Team on May 30, 2012. Amanda comes to us from Tucson, Arizona where she is completing an M.S. degree in Agricultural Education at the University of Arizona. Her research thesis investigates the relationship among developing life skills and different project areas for senior 4-H members in Arizona. Amanda also has a B.S. degree in Animal Sciences (Cum Laude) and extensive practical and professional experience in youth development. In addition to her many accomplishments as a 4-H and FFA member, Amanda continued her service to these organizations as State Vice President, project leader and community club leader. Amanda has completed agricultural internships in Iowa and Montana and serves as the Assistant Office Manager for the Arizona National Livestock Show. Amanda is enthusiastic, well-qualified and recognized for her commitment to succeed. Please join us in welcoming her to UW Extension, Teton County and the 4-H/Youth Development Team.

Crook County 4-H/Youth Development Educator

Please welcome **Sara Fleenor** to our UW Extension Team as the full-time 4-H Educator in Crook County, starting April 30th. Sara grew up in Crook County and was a nine year 4-H member. She also

served as a 4-H Intern in Crook County in 2000. Sara has an A.S. Degree in General Agriculture from Laramie County Community College, a B.S. Degree in Agriculture Communications and a M.S. Degree in Public Administration, both from the University of Wyoming. Sara has worked in higher education since 2003 with Laramie County Community College in Cheyenne. Sara brings a great combination of knowledge of Crook County and 4-H, as well as, a wealth of experience working with students and adults in education programs.



CNN Area CDE Educator

We are pleased to announce that **Hannah Swanbom** will be joining our Extension Team as the Community Development Education (CDE) Area Educator for the CNN Area, starting April 30th. This position is housed in Natrona County and will also serve Converse and Niobrara Counties. Hannah is completing her M.S. Degree in Agriculture Extension Education this semester from Iowa State University (ISU). She also has a B.S. Degree in Sociology from ISU. Hannah was a member of the ISU Women's Soccer Team from 2005-09. She was the coordinator of the Active Life Styles Program with the ARC of Story County, Iowa. This non-profit organization serves people with developmental disabilities. Hannah grew up in Colorado and is excited about returning to the West and starting her Extension work with the University of Wyoming. Hannah brings a great deal of enthusiasm to her efforts and this should be a great fit to our CDE Team.



WRIR 4-H Program Assistant (part-time)

Joeli CrazyThunder is the new part-time 4-H program assistant on the Wind River Indian Reservation. She is an Arapaho native and was a former Fremont County 4-H member in high school. She will be working with the Wind River Extension office to administer the 4-H Tribal Youth Mentoring program, developing 4-H after-school program curriculum, and to develop and initiate a number of summer youth programs. We look forward to her contributions in youth development on the Reservation. Joeli's e-mail address is jcrazyth@uwyo.edu. Please welcome her to Extension.



State 4-H Specialist

Welcome **Shawna Potter** to the State 4-H Office! Shawna will be leading our dog educational efforts including volunteer training, publications, and framing competitive dog shows. You can contact Shawna by cell - 307-214-0281, the State 4-H Office, or e-mail – spotter5@uwyo.edu.

West Area Extension Educator, SMRR – Position #1699, based in Sublette County. Interviews were held this week and a decision will be announced soon.

CNN Area Extension Educator, PSAS/Small Acreage – Position #0524, based in Natrona County. This is an extended term track position. Screening will begin April 23, 2012.

NW Area Extension Educator, PSAS/Crops – Position #1180, based in Washakie County. This is an extended term track position. Screening will begin April 23, 2012.

NW Area Extension Educator, NFS – Position #1205, based in Fremont County-Lander. This is an extended term track position and will open this month.

Carbon County 4-H/Youth Education – Position #2241, based in Rawlins. This is a full time, non-extended term track position and will open this month.

NE Area Extension Educator, PSAS – Position #0568, based in Campbell County. This will be an Assistant or Associate UEE, extended term track position and will open this month.

Staff Development/Federal Relations News from Susan:

Professional Development News

In-Depth Training 2012 – Mark your calendars and reserve November 5-8, 2012 in Laramie.

Planning committee members are: Kellie Chichester – PSAS, Jennifer Cheney – 4-H, Julie Daniels – CDE, Mindy Meuli – CNP, Mae Smith – SMRR, Diane Saenz – NFS and Kelly Crane, Administrative Liaison. Watch for details in coming months.

UW Extension New Employee Training – will be held on the UW campus in Laramie September 10–14, 2012.

ESCAPE – Extension Secretary Conference - a Professional Event. September 18–21 in Wheatland.

Reporting Tip

For those educators who work with volunteers; a powerful reporting tool is the value of volunteer time; The Independent Sector – conducts research on the value of volunteer time. Their Web site shows the value of volunteers by state: http://www.independentsector.org/volunteer_time. Currently the value of volunteer time in Wyoming is \$18.38/hour. If you have 100 4-H volunteers who donate just 5 hours per month – that equates to \$110,280 per year contribution to your program. Master Gardener volunteers also make a strong contribution. Bookmark this Web site for reporting your 2012 accomplishments.

Civil Rights Tip

ADA – Americans with Disabilities Act. As an agency that receives federal funds, UW Extension is required to make “reasonable accommodations” to the physical or mental limitations of employees and clientele. In general, in regard to clientele, this means holding meetings or educational activities in locations with specific parking spaces marked for handicapped individuals; using buildings with access ramps or no stairs so an individual in a wheelchair could enter; making sure entrances and hallways are wide enough for wheelchair access; and having bathrooms that can accommodate wheelchairs. If the facility has drinking fountains, they should be low enough for access or cups should be provided. All offices should have a sign visible that states: “If you need assistance, please ask”.

When working with clientele who may need accommodation to participate in programs, UW Extension has many great resources through the AgrAbility program. For resources, contact Dr. Randy Weigel, director or Chelsea Hampton, project director.

Customer Service Tip

UW Extension employees often participate in numerous meetings or educational events where we may not know others in the room. When working with new groups or individuals, I would encourage you to **wear your UW Extension name tag**. As a representative for UW Extension, you should approach those you don't know and introduce yourself “Hello, I'm _____, with the University of Wyoming Extension” and extend your hand to shake with the other person. It sometimes takes us out of our comfort zone to sit with individuals at a meal or conference tables that we don't know. With practice, everyone can enhance their skills to “work the room”.

Cent\$ible Nutrition Program News from Mary Kay:

The Cent\$ible Nutrition Program's annual Spring Fling training will be held April 17th and 18th in Casper at the ARLC. The theme is *Fishing For Knowledge*. The agenda includes “Life Balance” (You can tune your body, but you can't tune a fish), “Balancing the Scales – with Fish”, “Trolling the Food Bank”, and “Catch of the Day”. Chris Pasley and Denise Smith will teach from the Life Balance curriculum covering stress, sleep and physical activity. We will learn and practice how to help our customers include more fish in their diets and use the foods available from the Wyoming Food Bank of the Rockies. It will be an action-packed 24 hours full of fish, fitness, fresh ideas, and fundamentals.