

## 2020-24 NIFA Plan of Work Critical Issues and Outcomes Identified by UW Extension Initiative Teams (2018 EPIC)

### **Agriculture and Horticulture:**

**Consumer Horticulture** – Consumer horticulture is anything related to plants, gardens, or landscapes that could benefit individuals, communities, and the environment. Participation in horticultural programs also encourages Wyoming residents to be more self-sufficient and live a healthier lifestyle.

Outcomes to be reported in the NIFA Annual Accomplishment Report:

- Number of retail employees trained
- Number of participants whom indicated money was saved by access to resources
- Amount of money saved

**Lack of Crop Diversity** - Diversification of crops and outputs will bring economic value and sustainability to Wyoming farmers. Innovation with future production and discovering new market opportunities based upon sound research to validate feasible options for Wyoming growers will be offered.

Outcomes to be reported in the NIFA Annual Accomplishment Report:

- number of acres planted in diverse crops
- number of producers who reported growing a multitude of crops
- number of producers who indicated economic value was added to their operation
- number of producers who adopted different practices

**Livestock Health and Infectious Disease** - Wyoming livestock producers and owners must constantly manage herd/flock health and disease issues. Failure to properly manage health and disease concerns could be devastating to the economic viability and well-being of all Wyoming livestock operations.

Outcomes to be reported in the NIFA Annual Accomplishment Report:

- Number of producers who indicated a decrease in livestock death and economic losses
- Number of disease outbreaks reported
- Number of operations receiving “best practice” certifications (i.e. BQA)

**Maintaining Viable and Progressive Ag-operations** - Effective generational transition of management is crucial to the future of Wyoming agriculture. Not only must we ensure that this transition happens, we must ensure that the next generation has access to the tools, knowledge, and resources needed for success.

Outcomes to be reported in the NIFA Annual Accomplishment Report:

- Number of ag producers who increased diversification of enterprises
- Number of clientele who successfully transferred management of ag operation to different generation
- Number of clientele who adapted new management practices that enhance sustainability
- Number of new ag-based start ups

## **Community Development Education:**

**Civic Health** - Community members often desire to pursue a goal or vision, yet struggle to effectively work together to accomplish the outcome, or do not have the skills, knowledge or self-awareness to move forward. Collaboration to motivate action, develop skills and facilitate the processes that address local and regional needs and to build regional economies will increase the civic participation and engagement in American life.

Outcomes to be reported in the NIFA Annual Accomplishment Report:

- Number of participants who adopted best practices to increase civic engagement
- Number of community collaborations

**Community Economic Vitality** – The overall goal of UW Extension entrepreneurship programming is to improve the vibrancy of Wyoming’s economic environment. To accomplish this goal community-based efforts will be facilitated to improve the ecosystem for entrepreneurial ventures to develop, including the understanding of what community economic development is and the role of individuals, households, businesses, communities, and institutions have in building and maintaining a strong economy; develop and support programming in youth entrepreneurship; and, build skills in venture management.

Outcomes to be reported in the NIFA Annual Accomplishment Report:

- Number of participants who indicated improved business management skills
- Number of youth who demonstrated entrepreneurial spirit
- Number of existing businesses who indicated improved capacity to compete
- Number of new business ventures developed

**Individual and Family Resource Management** - The overall goal of family resource management is to increase Wyoming residents’ capacity to address consumer and household economic issues by offering educational programs that focus on lifelong financial management and decision-making skills.

Outcomes to be reported in the NIFA Annual Accomplishment Report:

- Number of participants who improved financial behavior and resource management skills
- Number of participants reporting an increase in consumer awareness, savings, and spending habits
- Number of participants reporting reduced personal debt

## **Nutrition and Food Safety:**

**Health Promotion and Education** - Improved nutrition and physical activity behaviors decrease risk of obesity and chronic disease (e.g., diabetes), which are major issues in Wyoming.

Outcomes to be reported in the NIFA Annual Accomplishment Report:

- Number of participants reporting an increase in physical activity and strength training
- Number of participants who report an increase in their intake of fruits, vegetables and whole grains
- Number of participants who report a decrease in foods to limit such as added salt, sugar, and fat
- Number of participants who report following USDA/FDA food safety recommendations

**Healthy Environments** - Going beyond education is necessary to improve healthy behaviors and decrease rates of chronic disease and obesity. Individuals must also live in an environment that facilitates making the healthy choice the easy choice. Evidence-based policy, systems, and environment (PSE) strategies can improve nutrition and physical activity behaviors and decrease risk of obesity and chronic disease (e.g., diabetes).

Outcomes to be reported in the NIFA Annual Accomplishment Report:

- Number of participants exposed to environmental changes
- Number of community partners adopting recommended physical activity and nutrition practices/guidelines
- Number of community partners making environmental changes (e.g. walking path, stairway posters)

### **Rangeland:**

**Access to and Demand on Rangelands** - Multiple user groups require and/or value access to unmodified rangelands in the western US. Many ranchers rely on the opportunity to graze large acreages of public land to maintain the viability of their business. Increasingly, recreationists (to include hunters, hikers, wildlife viewers, etc.) are valuing the wide open spaces that rangelands provide. While use and public interest in rangelands is increasing, public knowledge about differences in how different lands are managed has not kept pace.

Outcomes to be reported in the NIFA Annual Accomplishment Report:

- Number of participants who reported an increase in knowledge gained

**Invasive and Noxious Weeds** - Invasive weeds can change the ecology of a landscape by replacing native vegetation which will have adverse effects on soil health, wildlife both invertebrates and vertebrates, and livestock. Those that will benefit from this program besides livestock producers who already recognize that invasive weeds cause a reduction in forage, but also outdoor recreationists from hikers to hunters in that controlling invasive weeds maintains the native vegetation which in turn maintains this ecosystem for them to enjoy their outdoor endeavors.

Outcomes to be reported in the NIFA Annual Accomplishment Report:

- Number of verified reports of invasive/noxious weed locations
- Number of individuals who participated in noxious weed pull days
- Number of participants reporting reduced areas infested with invasive/noxious weeds

**General Public Range Education** – When public space is concerned, the decision maker can be anyone. Understand how the shared resource is used and managed can help navigate conflict resulting from different expectations of user groups. Examples of understanding basic cause and effect with the ecosystem: why it's important to 'Shut the Gate', or a recreational fisherman understanding the sensitivities of a riparian zone.

Outcomes to be reported in the NIFA Annual Accomplishment Report:

- Number of participants reporting a greater understanding of issues related to multi-use lands
- Number of participants reporting that the atmosphere around contentious subjects improved
- Number of organizations who report addressing similar issues with the general public

#### **4-H Youth Development:**

**Volunteer Support and Engagement** – Provide high quality learning experiences for 4-H volunteers that support their individual capacity to serve in the various roles available to them in our educational programming.

Outcomes to be reported in the NIFA Annual Accomplishment Report:

- Number of training opportunities provided to adult volunteers
- Number of adult volunteers trained

**Teen Programming and Engagement** – Intentionally frame all 4-H learning experiences from a positive youth development perspective to support PYD outcomes. This includes involving teens in planning, implementing, and evaluating 4-H learning experiences. The creation of "seats" for youth on 4-H committees historically made up only of adults is one aspect of this goal. Youth will be included more in many aspects of educational experiences provided but also through more life and leadership skill development opportunities for teens.

Outcomes to be reported in the NIFA Annual Accomplishment Report:

- Number of learning experiences offered to teen age youth on personal or leadership skill development
- Number of youth enrolled in 4-H teen leadership clubs or groups