Fire program lauded by Lake Tahoe and University officials

Volunteers strive for well-being of entire family during disasters

Hundreds of ranchers benefit from range school

For nearly four years, Cooperative Extension’s Nevada Range Management Program has provided hundreds of ranchers with the tools and skills they need for fire prevention and mitigation. The program has also provided many people with career opportunities in the livestock industry. In a recent survey, more than 98% of respondents said the program had a positive impact on their ranching business.

Educaters help save jobs in Tonopah

For the miners, displaced through the closing of the U.S. Bureau of Mines, the Nevada Range Management Program is a critical component of the Nevada Bureau of Mines and Geology’s effort to help them find new opportunities. In addition, the program is helping to ensure that the local economy remains strong.

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**2009 Program Highlights**

For more information, please visit us at www.unce.unr.edu

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**2009 Accomplishments**

- Nevada Cooperative Extension faculty and staff worked with communities throughout the state to address important challenges and opportunities.
- Extension centers provided educational programs to help people and families improve their quality of life and contribute to the state’s economy.
- The Extension program reached more than 800,000 people through more than 1,300 programs.
- Faculty and staff received outside grants totaling more than $1 million.
- Faculty and staff conducted more than 350 research projects.
- Faculty and staff published more than 1,000 articles and reports.
- Faculty and staff provided more than 200,000 hours of community service.

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**2009 Program Highlights**

- Nevada Cooperative Extension conducted surveys concerning the Tonopah Test Range in central Nevada.
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4-H Capital Days educates teens about legislative issues

“The legislature is where we talk about how the state is doing, how the government is run, how the money is budgeted, what’s important to us,” said Tara Spann, All 4 Kids program officer. “All 4 Kids is a wonderful venue for children to get healthy eating messages and get exposure to legislative issues.”

According to Schafer, the youth planned most of the 4-H Capital Days. More than 40 teens from throughout Nevada attended the event, which included a tour of the Capital's legislative complexes, a behind-the-scenes look at the Nevada Legislative Building, and a full day of educational, hands-on activities. Topics covered included food and nutrition, Legislative history, economic development, environmental issues, and more.

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4-H Capital Days educates teens about legislative issues

"If you want to know what’s going on in Carson City, you need to be there," said Jo Anne Kock, children, youth and family development specialist for Cooperative Extension. "It’s like a summer camp for 4-H... It’s a learning opportunity for them."

4-H Capital Days educates more than 40 teens from throughout Nevada every year about how state government operates. It is a hands-on educational experience that gives teens the opportunity to interact with their elected leaders in the capitol building and follow the legislative process. Capital Days enables youth to interact with their lawmakers, tour government buildings and learn about the legislative process. The two-day event includes breakfast with legislators, educational tours, and activities such as debates and model congressional hearings.

In a post-event survey, the students rated Capital Days as "very positive," with 98.9% rating their experience as positive. A 24-hour recall analysis revealed a 28% improvement in consumption of fruits and vegetables among the teens who attended Capital Days. The results of the survey were consistent across different age groups, with 25% of participating youth increasing their consumption of fresh fruits and vegetables.

Other program collaborators are: Cooperative Extension's Leslie Allen (far right), Cooperative Extension's Family and Children's Programs Specialist Jackie Reilly, Marlene Rebori and Wendy Hanson-Mazet.

4-H Capital Days is an extension of the program’s 4-H Learning Center, which is a hands-on science education program that provides opportunities for youth to engage in real-world learning experiences related to science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM). The Learning Center is designed to help youth develop critical thinking skills and problem-solving abilities, as well as to foster a love for learning and a desire to pursue STEM-related careers. It is a part of the larger 4-H youth development program, which is a national movement dedicated to the development of youth through educational programs that teach life skills, leadership, and citizenship.

In addition to 4-H Capital Days, Cooperative Extension offers a range of programs and services to help youth and families in Nevada. These include 4-H youth development programs, which focus on the development of youth through educational programs that teach life skills, leadership, and citizenship; and education programs, which offer a variety of educational opportunities for all ages, including youth programs, adult education programs, and community programs.

Cooperative Extension is committed to improving the lives of people in Nevada through the development and delivery of education programs and services. The extension program is headquartered at the University of Nevada, Reno, and is a state and federal partnership that delivers educational programs, research, and services to communities throughout the state. Cooperative Extension works with communities to address a wide range of issues, including education, health, nutrition, and economic development.
All 4 Kids gives preschoolers a jump-start on life

School garden program teaches healthy lifestyles

Family Storyteller enhances literacy skills for preschoolers and parents

A vegetable garden in the middle of the street

Supporting economic growth for Nevada tribes

4-H Capital Days educates teens about legislative issues

Facts on food labels to make food choices and control portion sizes.

Nutrition in the Garden

Nutrition in the Garden is a community education program that promotes nutrition, active lifestyles and healthy eating for youth between the ages of 4 and 18. Nutrition in the Garden's goals are to promote and support the consumption of healthy foods, increase the awareness of healthy lifestyle and food choices, and create a community that is knowledgeable and supportive of healthy eating and active lifestyles.

The program is designed to help children develop healthy eating habits and lifestyles through engaging, hands-on activities that promote nutrition and physical activity. The program focuses on building the capacity of communities to implement and sustain nutrition education programs for children and families. 

The program uses a variety of educational strategies, including hands-on activities, games, and role-playing, to teach children about nutrition and healthy living. The program also includes a community-based component, where volunteers help develop and implement nutrition education programs in local communities.

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Participating communities receive training and technical assistance to develop and implement the program. The program is designed to be flexible and adaptable to the needs of the community, and can be tailored to suit the needs of the target population.

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Capital Days was valuable because the teens are able to improve their sanitation, and they learn to better select and buy food. “I use the information I got every day,” said a single mother of seven children after the two-day event in Carson City, where they had breakfast with 4-H administrators from around the state.

“It’s a great way for students to understand and learn about the legislative process. Capital Days enabled youth to interact with their peers as well as legislators, University officials and members of the legislative process. Capital Days was a very valuable experience,” said Adrienne Sawyer, 4-H teen program coordinator.

A 24-hour recall analysis revealed a 61 percent improvement in 2008: 33 percent of students consumed fresh fruits and vegetables, compared with 22 percent in 2007. The percentage consuming fresh vegetables jumped from 52 percent to 62 percent. "It’s not only children who benefit from this program. The adults also benefit. The parents learned how to shop and select healthy fruits and vegetables," said Sawyer.

The four-day event was attended by more than 140 teenagers and 30 adult representatives from the northern region in the Carson City area and the Lake Tahoe Basin. The goal of Nutrition in the Garden is to reduce the risk of childhood obesity, improve knowledge, attitudes and behaviors about healthy food and physical activity, and enhance critical thinking, cognitive and decision-making skills. Participants are exposed to food, nutrition and gardening needs of the community through the creation of school gardens, family gardens, community gardens, and are able to spend time with peers who share similar experiences.

In 2010, All 4 Kids will collaborate with Acelero's Head Start Centers to evaluate the fruit and vegetable intake and daily physical activity of more than 400 preschoolers. The project with $100,000 is a part of the Department of Human Development and Family Services to enhance economic development, potential uses for the reservoir under the Bureau of Indian Affairs in a weed-management and water-quality project with $50,000.

A vegetable garden in the middle of the street

A vegetable garden in the middle of the street was a part of a UDRE/EDEN Family and Consumer Sciences program. The garden project provided a source of fresh fruits and vegetables to the Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe community and was in collaboration with the Clark County School District, the Bureau of Indian Education, the Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe, Truckee Meadows Permaculture and Nevada System of Higher Education. The project was funded by the Risk Management Agency – provided $50,000.

Storyteller workshop participants heard about the benefits of storytelling. "It’s part of our curriculum – to educate our students to be storytellers. It’s part of our job…yet her passion for this increasingly important field goes beyond the university," said Jeannine Hilton, project consultant.

In 2008, Allen was selected out of 15,000 national applicants to participate in the Department of Human Development and Family Services to enhance economic development, potential uses for the reservoir under the Bureau of Indian Affairs in a weed-management and water-quality project with $50,000.

School garden program teaches healthy lifestyles

The school garden program teaches healthy lifestyles through an in-depth 2006 study. The goal of Nutrition in the Garden is to reduce the risk of childhood obesity, improve knowledge, attitudes and behaviors about healthy food and physical activity, and enhance critical thinking, cognitive and decision-making skills. Participants are exposed to food, nutrition and gardening needs of the community through the creation of school gardens, family gardens, community gardens, and are able to spend time with peers who share similar experiences.

In 2008, Mariposa students sampled and tested more than 25 fruits and vegetables. Take-home activities and homework assignments included reading and writing activities. The project was funded by the Risk Management Agency – provided $50,000.

Family Storyteller enhances literacy skills for preschoolers and parents

Family Storyteller enhances literacy skills for preschoolers and parents. “It’s an additional way to teach children about the cultural practices of Native Americans. "We’re reaching out to people who have already expressed an interest in working with older adults, “ said Jeanne Hilton, project consultant.

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The program is highly effective in educating the public on the magnitude of wildfire issues in the Tahoe region and significant changes in high fire-hazard areas, Cooperative Extension's Living With Fire in the Lake Tahoe Basin is a 30-minute video, funded by a Nevada Division of Forestry grant, was a collaborative effort with KOLO Channel 8 and the North Lake Tahoe Fire Protection District.

“This program is the keystone of our public education and outreach efforts,” said Sonya Sistare, fire program coordinator, who is also the Fire Protection program coordinator for the Nevada Division of Forestry.

So, Cooperative Extension faculty Buddy Borden and Karen Hinton, along with student Desiree DeForest, conducted the program.

The 260-acre, top secret Tonopah Test Range has been employed by the military since 1947. It is the primary site for missile testing, and is now used for weapon testing and aerospace research.

Researchers concluded the test site generated $157.4 million in economic activity, including $16.3 million in wages for more than 400 employees.

“If the site were to close, the economic impact would be devastating to the communities surrounding it,” said Dr. Keith Forbes, of the NDOA, said during the announcement. "Just想想 that local decision-makers and other stakeholders are in a very difficult position."

Dr. Forbes added that the test site is critical to Nevada’s military and economic future. "This is an example of the need for central Nevada towns to continue to support our military mission and national security," he said.

The Nye County citizens were not pleased. The site, 40 miles southwest of Tonopah, employs 135 people. Residents feared the site would close if funding were reduced.

”Cutting jobs at the test range would create devastating unemployment and economic impacts,” said Dr. Forbes. "It's not just about the jobs. It’s about the impact on the surrounding communities.

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Dr. Dennis Wilson, professor in the Department of Animal Science, said: “During a training session at Reno’s Northside Animal Hospital, I was interested in the types of anxieties that humans face during disasters, and also responders to help keep pets safe and healthy during emergencies.

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