DIVERSITY—3 Idaho tribes benefit from tribal-based UI Extension educators and programs

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WHILE UI EXTENSION HAS SERVED many Idaho counties for nearly a century, Idaho Indian lands got their own federally funded UI Extension support mainly during this century.

At Port Hall and on the Coeur d’Alene and Nez Perce reservations, UI Extension educators work with tribal leaders to bring 4-H and other youth development programs plus agricultural, community development, health, and family finance resources as each tribe desires. Programs vary to meet each reservation’s needs.

**Port Hall Tribes.** To help improve Shoshone-Bannock cattle/buffalo enterprises, Danielle Gunn, on her arrival in 2000, assembled a livestock advisory committee to identify greatest needs. **Results 11 years later:** Improved bull grading for 3,800 head of cattle; increased cow pregnancy rates by 35%; diminished trichomoniasis and vaccinated all cattle for brucellosis—both diseases causing calf abortions; range improvement to prevent cattle dying from eating poisonous plants; greatly reduced West Nile virus outbreaks; electronic ID tags track 300 buffalo.

**Coeur d’Alene Tribe.** Laura Laumatia, in Plummer since 2004, worked with the city and tribe to draft comprehensive plans. After coaching the community’s Horizons program, (see last week’s AgK) she and fellow UI Bioregional Planning students drafted a pre-design concept for a sustainable housing unit that led to $4 million in HUD funding to build 20 housing units so green that future residents will pay greatly reduced heating/cooling bills. Through efforts of her food security coalition, healthier foods are served at the wellness center.

**Nez Perce Tribe.** Valdasue Steele brought UI Extension programs to the Nez Perce in 2008. She’s helped implement a community garden in Lapwai, taught soils classes, and organized weed education workshops. Horses are an important part of Nez Perce culture, yet few families can afford to own one. By using her own horses, and the tribe’s, Steele’s horsemanship program has been an effective way to teach important life skills related to leadership, communication, and teamwork. She also helped start a 4-H horse club and teaches the hands-on component of the horse science class being offered for credit at Lapwai High School.

24 Scientists begin Idaho-Costa Rica studies

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THE LATEST CROP of scientists-in-training will do field research in Idaho and Costa Rica as part of the cooperative doctoral education partnership between the University of Idaho and Costa Rica’s Tropical Agricultural Research and Higher Education Center.

The $3.2 million Integrative Graduate Education and Research Traineeship (IGERT) is funded by the National Science Foundation. It educates doctoral-level scientists and engineers with an emphasis on working in interdisciplinary teams.

Funds will help train 24 graduate students who work on teams focused on understanding ecological and social resilience of fragmented landscapes near towns in Idaho and Costa Rica. An earlier project trained 20 UI doctoral students by studying similar issues in the Palouse and Costa Rica. Idaho’s second five-year project is led by Nilsa Bosque-Pérez, entomology professor and interim College of Graduate Studies dean, aided by 32 Idaho professors plus 12 from Costa Rica.

Levi Keeseecker, among IGERT students completing their first year, chose this program over a prestigious University of Michigan National Science Foundation graduate research fellowship. McCall native Irene Shaver, in environmental science, works with a team focused on how rural development efforts in places like the Palouse or northern Costa Rica consider conservation needs.

Student Taiwan trip interrupted in Japan

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THE AIRLINER CARRYING four UI College of Agricultural and Life Sciences students and two professors was on approach at Tokyo’s Narita Airport on the afternoon of March 11 when the pilot announced that a large earthquake required new plans.

That’s when their trip to Taiwan’s National Chaiyi University and a week’s study of agriculture got complicated.

Professors Bob Trippepi, horticulturist in Moscow, and fish geneticist Matt Powell, Hagerman, had previously visited Taiwan. Their experience and calm helped the students cope with the three-day delay on the way to Taipei, said Doug Kippes, a junior from Buhl studying ag engineering.

Shea Nesbitt, a master’s student in agricultural education, said the delays, including walks through Tokyo’s quaking streets, provided an unexpected chance to witness Japanese culture and compare it with Taiwan’s.

“The time in Taiwan gave us a chance to see a different agricultural system, which I expected,” Kippes said. “One thing I didn’t expect was the experience of being in Taipei and seeing so many people in such a small area. It started me thinking about the future and about how even Idaho agriculture will have to adapt to feed everyone as the world’s population grows.”

DID YOU KNOW?

3,874
NUMBER OF HISPANIC-OWNED BUSINESSES IN IDAHO IN 2007, UP FROM 2,775 IN 2002. ONE-FOURTH OF THE BUSINESSES WERE IN CONSTRUCTION.
Source: www.extension.uidaho.edu/horizons/ataglance