

Extension Education
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Building Knowledge, Improving Lives By Tasha Killian

It's possible you've seen our logo on fliers around town, heard about a class we were hosting, walked past our exhibits during the fair, or even had your children participate in a 4-H club or camp. Utah State University Extension has a long history here in Juab County with deep community roots, but have you ever wondered what we really do? It is a long story, so let's start at the beginning.

Extension services officially began with a federal piece of legislation passed in 1914. The Smith-Lever Act formalized what had previously been community clubs meeting together. These clubs focused mostly on agricultural practices, as did Extension when it first began. As time has evolved, so has Extension's mission and services. According to the USDA webpage, Extension provides community education in a variety of areas including family and consumer sciences, health and wellness, agriculture, horticulture, as well as overseeing local 4-H programs.

In each state there are different universities who provide Extension services for the state. So, no matter where you go in the United States, you can find an Extension office with local experts. In each state, Extension is organized similarly, but operates a little differently. In Utah, the Extension university is Utah State University. Utah State University Extension's mission is to enhance the lives of members of the community by building knowledge through education and outreach programs. To accomplish this, there is a Utah State University Extension office in almost every county in the state. In each of these counties, Utah State University Extension collaborates with the county to provide funding for the outreach and programs to occur. The way this works is through a cooperative agreement that is signed by the county commissioners each year.

The cooperative agreement is an important document in each county because it dictates the relationship between the county and the University. The cooperative agreement states the county budget, provides funds for the staff and allows for each of the counties Extension offices to operate. Since the funds are provided by the county, university faculty and staff work with the county commissioners and county administrator to set a budget, similar to what is done in other departments, and then the county and university work together to make sure expenses do not exceed what is in the budget.

The idea of a cooperative agreement, and the basis of how Extension services works in each county, is that the county and the university work together to provide services that otherwise may not be provided. In Juab County we offer a wide variety of services based on your needs and our expertise. The goal of the Extension office in our county, is to provide education and resources that meet the needs of the county members. Some of the courses we offer include: livestock courses and training for youth, parenting and relationship education, animal first aid courses, youth cooking camps, youth sewing camps, nutrition education courses, and more!

Here in Juab County, we have two faculty members and a great team of staff to put on programs. I am Tasha Killian, one of the faculty here and my responsibilities include Family and Consumer

Sciences, Health and Wellness, and 4-H and Youth Development. I have a master's degree in Family and Human Development and love to study relationships, family dynamics, and leadership. Beth Crandall is the faculty member over Agriculture, Horticulture, and 4-H and Youth Development. She has a master's degree in Agriculture Extension, loves animals, riding her horses, and spending time outside with her husband. We have two full-time office staff assistants who help keep things running. We have one 4-H staff assistant and are currently hiring another one. Our current 4-H staff assistant works mostly in the Family and Consumer Sciences realm. The second 4-H staff assistant we are looking to hire will work more in the areas of STEM programming and agriculture and horticulture programs. We also have one Nutritional Education Assistant who teaches our Food Sense program as well as one fatherhood educator who teaches relationship education around the county. Also working out of our county is the Southern Region Director for Extension, she oversees faculty and staff in 14 counties throughout the state of Utah.

As you can see, we have quite the team here in Juab County. Each of the team members works together to create an office that works to serve the people of Juab County. Our mission, as I said before, is to enhance the lives of those whom we serve. We have a tagline in Extension that we work hard to fulfill, which is "building knowledge, improving lives." You can keep up to date with what we do by finding us on Facebook under USU Extension – Juab County and on our website extension.usu.edu/juab. If you have any questions or would like to see a specific program brought to the county, don't hesitate to reach out to us. Thank you for letting us serve you, we hope to see you soon!