

INTRODUCTION



The partnership between USU Extension and Sanpete County contributes to the development of quality educational programs that address the needs of Sanpete County individuals and families. Through the integration of teaching, research, and public service, we are able to respond to critical and emerging issues with research-based, unbiased information.

Extension programs provide clientele with opportunities to increase their knowledge and skill-sets that lead to behavior changes and healthy, productive lifestyles. Over the past few years, we have focused on implementing programs that empower youth, strengthen families, and improve agriculture and horticulture practices for land owners.

FARM SAFETY

Sanpete County boasts the largest turkey production and the most sheep and lambs when compared to the 28 other counties in Utah. Other top commodities produced include cattle, alfalfa hay, and barley. Most of the 901 farms in Sanpete County rely on youth to provide much of the labor for the farm enterprises. Also many more youth live next to and visit farms on a regular basis due to the rural nature of the county. Agriculture is one of the most dangerous industries in the nation. Injury rates are highest among children under the age of 15 (OSHA Farm Safety Fact Sheet, 2005). To reduce the risk of agriculture related

injuries and death for youth in Sanpete County a highly interactive hands-on community based farm safety educational course was developed by USU Extension and Utah Farm Bureau.

Impact of this education program:

1. Graduation rate of 100% for 172 students in 10 years.
2. Increased knowledge by 10% according to pre and post-tests.
3. 94% of participants rated the quality of the farm safety program as good or excellent.
4. Awarded the National Finalist in "Search for Excellence in Farm & Health Safety" by NACAA.

KID PACK PROGRAM



According to Kids Count Data (2013), 22% of youth ages 0-17 are living in poverty throughout Sanpete County, resulting in the eligibility of free or reduced lunches for 50% or more of students in all eight elementary schools. Based on county-level data and research outlining the adverse effects food insecurity can have on children's development, the Sanpete County Kid Pack program was established as an effort to alleviate hunger during weekend hours when school breakfast and lunch are unavailable. Nutritious meals and snacks are distributed to elementary-aged children by pantry volunteers, in partnership with local elementary schools, on Friday afternoons.

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Because of national presentations and peer-reviewed publications, the Utah State Food Sense office has requested a zoom presentation of the program, and 13 individuals from eight states requested information on Sanpete County's successful program to implement in their states and counties.

Kid Packs are estimated to have a retail cost of \$15.00 per pack, resulting in a considerable savings of grocery purchases per month for families participating in the program during the school year, thus reducing the stress and burden that poverty and food insecurity creates for Sanpete County families. Table 1 shows the monthly grocery savings over the life of the program.

Table 1

MONTHLY SAVINGS AMONG ALL KID PACK PARTICIPANTS

Year	Number of Kid Packs per Month	Total Savings per Month
2013	40	\$600.00
2014	175	\$2,625.00
2015	325	\$4,875.00
2016	424	\$6,360.00
2017	450	\$6,750.00

FEEDING THE NATION

The Sanpete County Extension Office provided a Norbest barbeque turkey dinner for 700 Extension faculty at the National Association of County Agriculture Agents (NACAA) conference. Utah Extension hosted the NACAA annual conference in Salt Lake City. Our office volunteered to provide Sanpete county's famous BBQ turkey dinner as a farewell dinner for this event at "This Is The Place" state park. This was a great opportunity to showcase the talents and abilities of our office and promote Norbest turkey to a national audience. This meal was enjoyed and given high reviews by all that attended.



4-H FAMILY FUN NIGHTS

The School Wellness award recognizes outstanding school-based programs that promote and improve physical, emotional, and/or social wellness of students, staff or families of students in the school community. In 2017, Sanpete County's 4-H Family Fun Night program received regional and national recognition by being awarded the first-place regional and national recipient of the School Wellness Award. Sanpete County's program was chosen out of 25 applications nationwide.

The 4-H Family Fun Night program was presented as a first-place national award-winning program at the National Association of Family and Consumer Sciences annual conference. As a result, nineteen states requested information about the activities to adapt to their county 4-H programs.



PROTECTING COMMUNITIES BY GRAZING FIRE BREAKS



The dangers of wildfire continue to increase throughout the western U.S. We have had two large wildfires over the past several years in Sanpete County that have destroyed hundreds of buildings and threatened many residents and their property. This has prompted state and federal agencies to spend many thousands of dollars to clear trees and brush around wild land developments as a fire-break for protection. Over time the fire-breaks will succumb to regeneration of gamble oak and increased production of fine fuels making the area more vulnerable to wildfire without maintenance actions.

USU Extension has developed a research and demonstration plot east of Mt. Pleasant to study the efficacy of maintaining the fire-breaks with livestock. This project will be monitored over many years to document and demonstrate an environmentally friendly and financially beneficial option to maintain fire-breaks that can potentially save many homes and lives in the future.

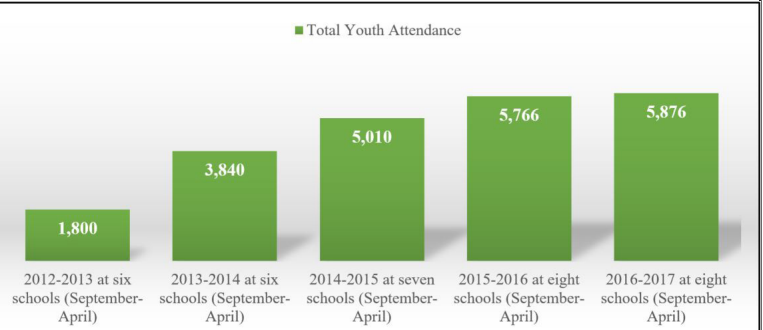


4-H AFTERSCHOOL CLUBS

Knowledge of the 4-H program and USU Extension has increased through the formation and implementation of 4-H afterschool clubs. Afterschool clubs provide low-income, underserved elementary school-aged youth with the opportunity to participate in 4-H projects and activities in a safe, inclusive environment with caring adult mentors. Through participation in 4-H Afterschool activities, youth have gained valuable life skills to become active, productive members of their respective communities by engaging in service-learning projects, educational lessons, and various healthy living activities.

Grant monies have provided the means to recruit, train, and compensate 24 part-time positions over three years to deliver quality afterschool educational programs for Sanpete County youth. As shown in the figure below, afterschool attendance has grown notably due to the increased grant funding received in 2014.

Figure 1
YEAR-OVER-YEAR AFTERSCHOOL ATTENDANCE



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