



OUTCOMES & IMPACT QUARTERLY – SPRING 2022

INTRODUCTION

I am excited to share Volume 2, Issue 1 of Outcomes & Impact Quarterly (OIQ). In 2021, OIQ showcased 19 different programs in Utah involving over 50 of our faculty and staff members. USU Extension is proud of their efforts to improve the lives of Utahns.

I look forward to sharing more impacts through OIQ this year and invite you to read this current issue to learn more about our progress and impacts on youth development, food access, water quality, and diversity in your communities.

Sincerely,

Kenneth L. White

Dean, College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences; Vice President, Extension and Agriculture



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USING A COMMUNITY GARDEN PROGRAM TO PROMOTE POSITIVE YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

Melanie Dabb

The Wayne County 4-H program has operated a community garden in the past with limited success. However, in 2020, Wayne County 4-H received grant funding from the Whole Kids Foundation to revive an existing community garden.

The target audience was youth living in Wayne County and their families. Youth learned basic plant science, including what plants and seeds need to grow and thrive, useful insects, and the role of pollinators. Math skills were incorporated as students learned about plant spacing and making the most of a limited garden space. Students also learned life skills such as delayed gratification by waiting for seeds to sprout, and creative problem solving and resilience when a project did not succeed the first time.

Positive outcomes of the garden include increased sense of community belonging, knowledge of local agriculture, and increased consumption of fruits and vegetables. The next step is to create a partnership with USU Create Better Health and the Wayne County Food Pantry to donate food from the garden to the local food pantry.



5 adults & **15** youth worked in the garden weekly.

The youth who participated were primarily **5-8** years old.

Between May and August of 2021, volunteers and youth provided **291** service hours.

PACK IT OUT UTAH: USU WATER QUALITY EXTENSION LEADS UTAH'S STATEWIDE TRAILS AND WATERWAYS CLEANUP

Lauren Houskeeper and Hope Braithwaite



Outdoor recreation on Utah's public lands has increased over the past decade, and especially during the COVID-19 pandemic. This has led to more graffiti and an increase of garbage on trails, and in parks, neighborhoods, and eventually in waterways.

In 2020, USU Water Quality Extension spearheaded the creation of Utah's first statewide cleanup, Pack It Out Utah, to combat the increase in garbage. The cleanup was a week-long event encouraging people across the state of Utah to take initiative and be good stewards of watersheds and public lands by collecting trash that would otherwise negatively impact landscapes, waterways, wildlife, and public health. A subsequent event was held in 2021.

Partner organizations, such as nonprofits and local governments, were instrumental in planning, providing feedback, resources, and advertising the cleanup.

12 local cleanup events completed.

570+ volunteers participated.

During the cleanup events in 2020 and 2021, **> 11,000 LBS** of trash were removed from public lands and waterways.

2021 volunteer hours:

1,504 Total service hours

Equivalent valued of **\$28.54/HR.**

Overall valued of **\$42,924**

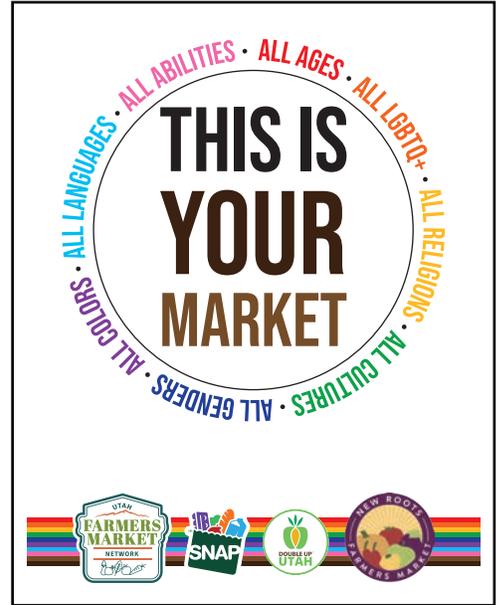
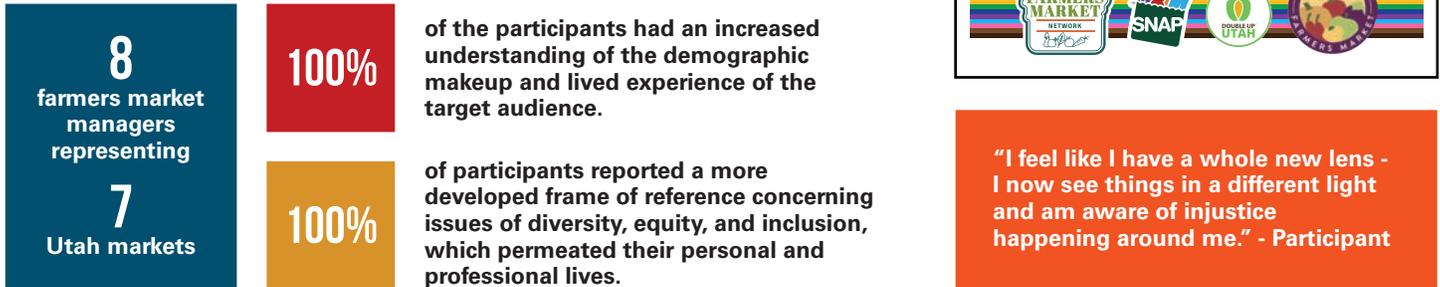
WELCOMING AND INCLUSIVE FARMERS MARKETS: ENCOURAGING DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION

Jaclyn Pace, Regan Emmons, Kelsey Hall, Celina Wille, LaCee Jimenez, Carrie Durward, Roslynn Brain-McCann

Farmers markets, as vibrant hubs for community connection and stimulus to the local economy, often have staff, vendor, and customer demographics that are predominantly white, posing high barriers to entry for people of color. The Utah Farmers Market Network convened a Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Community of Practice (CoP) with market managers statewide to assist markets in becoming more welcoming and inclusive. The CoP's target audience was low-income and SNAP recipients from historically excluded and oppressed groups such as Black and Indigenous People of Color, women, religious minorities, and LGBTQ+ individuals.

Participating farmers markets now have a variety of tools to deepen their personal understanding of diversity, equity, and inclusion and can implement changes, both within their market organizations and their physical markets. Current and future vendors, customers, and staff will benefit from the practices implemented by these farmers markets.

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Community of Practice results:



UNDERSTANDING THE NEEDS OF RESIDENTS IN SEVIER COUNTY TO PLAN IMPACTFUL PROGRAMS

Kari Ure, Lendel Narine, and McKay Erickson

An assessment was conducted in Sevier County in 2021 to determine critical needs of youth and adults in the county pertaining to home and community related issues.

An online survey was used to gather data for the needs assessment. The survey included a combination of close-ended and open-ended questions. The close-ended questions asked participants to rate the level of effort USU Extension in Sevier County should give to 10 youth issues and 24 adult issues. Participants were asked to indicate their preferred method for educational programming and their preferred mode of communication with Extension. Open-ended questions were included to allow participants to describe their perceptions about the needs of youth and adults.

Findings of the assessment will be used by USU Extension to plan and deliver relevant and responsive educational programs to residents of Sevier County. Findings will also guide resource allocation in Extension to create impactful educational programs as well as provide justification for programming for grant applications and other sources of external funding.

Survey results showed the ordered priority of issues for USU Extension in Sevier County.

Top Youth issues:	Top Adult issues:
MENTAL HEALTH	SUBSTANCE ABUSE
SUBSTANCE ABUSE	PARENTING/MARRIAGE/FAMILY RELATIONSHIPS
SUICIDE	MENTAL HEALTH
ELECTRONIC ABUSE/SOCIAL MEDIA	EMPLOYMENT OPTIONS
BULLYING	FINANCIAL LITERACY
FAMILY RELATIONSHIPS	HOUSING

CULTURAL COMPETENCY IN USU EXTENSION: IMPACT OF PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT FOR LATINO OUTREACH PROGRAMS

Celina Wille and Lendel Narine

In 2020, the U.S. Latino population reached 62 million, representing nearly one-in-five people. Latinos are the largest minority in Utah, comprising 14% of the population. As an underserved group, they have poorer outcomes in several major areas, including less access to health services, higher rates of poverty, and poorer youth academic achievement compared to other racial and ethnic groups in Utah.

While USU Extension provides a wide range of educational programs to address issues such as health and wellness, personal financial management, and positive youth development, Latino participation in Extension programs is low compared to other racial groups. Research suggests that low participation may be due to the lack of culturally relevant programming.

A professional development series focusing on Latino Cultural Competency was implemented in 2017 for USU Extension professionals, and included subsequent workshops in 2018 and 2019 to increase the cultural competency of Extension professionals and equip them with the knowledge and skills to deliver non-formal programs to Latino populations in Utah

To keep momentum, efforts to build cultural competency will continue and will be integrated into regular onboarding of new Extension faculty, as the sessions show that trainings can increase the knowledge and skills needed for program planning, implementing educational programs and developing resources for Latino audiences.



2021 participant follow-up evaluation surveys indicated:

62%

developed new resources to reach Latino communities.

57%

implemented educational programs to reach Latino communities.

57%

engaged in program planning activities to reach Latino communities.

