

Nephi Times Introduction:

Hi! My name is Sydney Gurney and I am Juab County's new Home and Community Professional Practice Extension Assistant Professor for Utah State University. In short, I am here for your home and community questions, needs and services.

While I have only officially lived in Nephi for the past 7 years, I spent many childhood summers enjoying Nephi's beauty. Nephi is home to some of the most fun events and people that I have experienced in my life. When the opportunity became available to set roots in this extraordinary community, I knew this is where I wanted to bring my family. It also helped that I married a man from Mona.

I obtained my master's degree in social work in 2020 from Utah Valley University. My work and interests are rooted in supporting people and strengthening the communities they call home. I am especially passionate about building and sustaining rural communities, with a focus on fostering connection, resilience, and opportunities for growth.

Outside of my professional life, I enjoy staying active by playing volleyball and embracing new experiences whenever I can. Whether I'm exploring a new place, trying something unfamiliar, or connecting with others through community activities, I value opportunities to learn, grow, and make a positive impact.

In the coming months, USU Extension has plans for some incredible programming, so stay tuned! Additionally, I value community input into what home and community services are needed. If you have an idea or a program that you previously loved, I'm eager to hear. You can reach me through email at sydney.gurney@usu.edu or through our extension phone number 435-623-3450.

I'm excited for this opportunity to serve Juab County!