

INTRODUCTION

Utah State University Extension provides research-based programs and resources with the goal of improving the lives of individuals, families and communities throughout Utah. USU Extension operates through a cooperative agreement between the United States Department of Agriculture, Utah State University, and county governments. Program areas include:

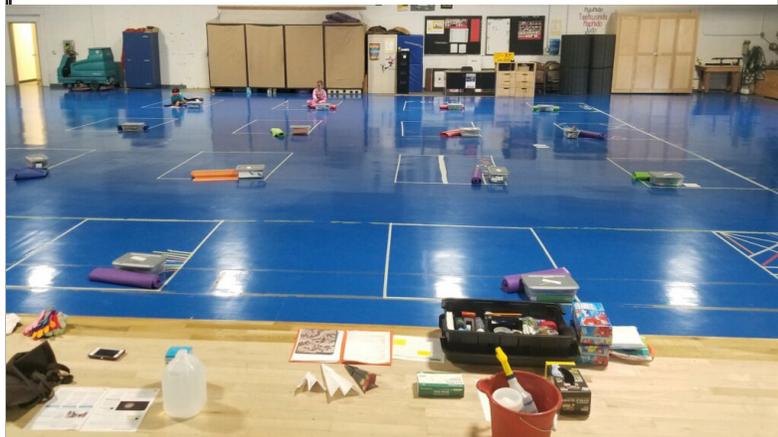
- Agriculture and Natural Resources
- Gardening
- Home, Family, and Food
- 4-H and Youth

The partnership between USU Extension and Sanpete County contributes to the development of quality research-based educational programs that address the needs of Sanpete County individuals and families. With the support of Sanpete County funding, USU faculty and staff have played an important role in the community during the ongoing pandemic. By employing innovative methods, we have been able to respond to the needs of clients.

4-H AFTERSCHOOL

Sanpete County's 4-H Afterschool program provides low-income, underserved youth qualifying for free and reduced lunches at Manti, Ephraim, Fairview, and Mt. Pleasant elementary schools with daily academic and enrichment activities that foster life-skills development in partnership with caring adult mentors. Academic activities focus on tutoring and homework help, as well as reading, language arts, and math concepts. Enrichment activities focus on STEM-based concepts and projects. Youth gain decision-making skills, healthy communication techniques, and leadership experiences that will enable them to make positive life choices. In addition, the program focuses on prevention components revolving around Healthy Living and Physical Activity and Positive Interpersonal Relationships.

In order to promote afterschool programs in other elementary schools, USU Extension faculty and staff have made intentional efforts to implement monthly afterschool activities at Spring City and Gunnison Valley Elementary schools with the goal of increasing the number of activities with future grant funding.



AFTERSCHOOL STATISTICS

- 110 youth participate in educational, hands-on afterschool programs throughout Sanpete County.

Weekly Afterschool Statistics:

- 70 youth attend daily programs at Manti, Ephraim, Mt. Pleasant, and Fairview Elementary.
- 60% of youth qualify for free/reduced lunches.
- 21% of youth are Hispanic.

Monthly Afterschool Statistics:

- 40 youth attend monthly afterschool programs at Spring City and Gunnison Elementary.

SANPETE COUNTY OUTDOOR REC CLUBS

The 4-H Youth Program in Sanpete County has grown a great deal despite the challenges of 2020. In early spring of 2020, our office was notified that we received a UCORE grant from the state. We have used this grant to develop Shooting Sports and Outdoor Recreation Clubs in Sanpete County.

The clubs officially launched in October of 2020. We have seen huge success in our communities. There are youth from all areas of the county enrolled from Fountain Green and Fairview to Sterling and Axtell. The youth have studied signaling, wild animal safety, climbing and rappelling and have many more adventures planned for this upcoming year. The Shooting Sports program focuses on building safety and skills while handling firearms and archery equipment. We have youth ages 9 to 18 enrolled with a large variety of skill levels but we see a lot of mentoring and encouragement among our youth and leaders. We hope to be able to take our more advanced shooters to the state contest in May. As we have seen the presence of scouting fade out of our county, we hope that these clubs will give the opportunity for all youth to have positive outdoor experiences.

AGRICULTURE CROP SCHOOL

Sanpete County has over 76,000 irrigated acres of farmland that produces many crops including hay, small grains and corn. The farmers here face many challenges including soil fertility, and insect pest control. USU Extension developed a crop school on February 12, 2020 in Ephraim to teach farmers about fertilizers, alfalfa weevil and aphid control methods. In a survey 84% of the farmers that attended rated this program as very good or excellent.



COVER CROP RESEARCH

Cover crops are being heavily promoted by government agencies and other organizations, yet little replicated research on cover crops has been conducted in Utah. We developed a cover crop research project and received grant funding to collect data on how cover crops perform and how they influence forage and soil quality in Utah.

We planted the cover crops in Ephraim at the Sustainable Agriculture Education (SAGE) Center and collected the first year of data. Due to Covid-19 restrictions we held a virtual field day to show farmers the plots and answer questions. This research project will continue for the next few years. The field day video is available at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JUO-ZqMWg-BQ&list=PLMnDQoXFVBEZop4xeRzg11YqTpwW1B-voG&index=14>

and to see the cover crop presentation go to: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kdIKWkmzAI&list=PLMnDQoXFVBEZXfoSgJSnf_daMgMLi_-cM&index=80



SMALL ANIMAL CLUB

Summer 2020 saw the formation of the Sanpete Birds and Bunnies Club. This club was formed because we saw a need for youth to be able to raise livestock animals regardless of space or financial ability. Under the direction of club leaders, the kids learned about housing, selection, nutrition and care of all types of poultry and rabbits.

Through the fall, they prepared for show by learning about grooming and showmanship for their animals. In October, we were able to host a small animal show for the club members where they exhibited their animals. Although our rabbits were unable to be shown in person, the youth recorded their showmanship videos and presented their videos to the judges. It was a great experience for all involved. Last month, we ran a Starter Flock Sponsorship Program. A local resident raised some Wyandotte pullets and donated them to the program. IFA of Ephraim graciously donated feeders to each of the youth that were selected. We awarded three sets of hens to different Sanpete County youth to help them start or continue their small animal livestock projects.

ECONOMIC IMPACT OF AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAMS

4-H Afterschool youth attend activities approximately 16 days per month for three hours per day. Based on average monthly charges of Family and Center Licensed facilities in Sanpete County, families participating in 4-H Afterschool activities enjoy a 72% savings when compared with family and center facilities. In addition to lower monthly fees, youth are engaged in structured educational activities focusing on homework and tutoring, nutrition and physical activity, building healthy relationships, and STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) activities.

Average Licensed Family/Center Monthly Pricing	Average 4-H Afterschool DWS Licensed Facility Monthly Pricing
\$400 per month	\$20 per month with fee waivers as needed

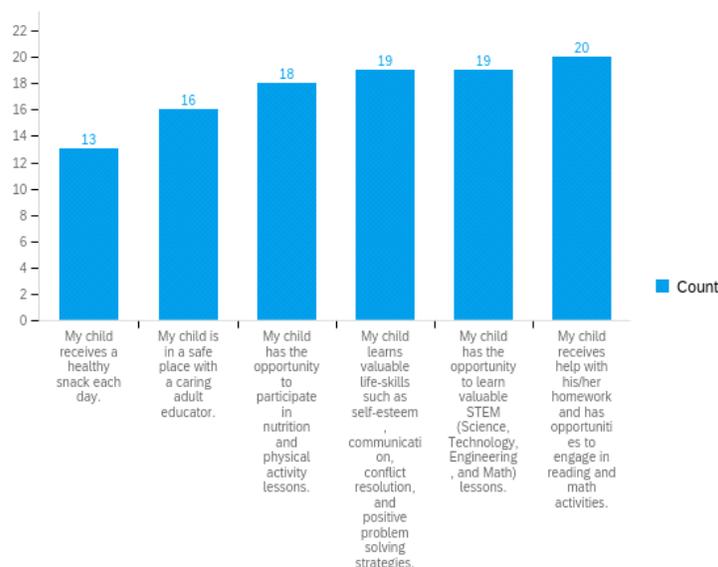
AFTERSCHOOL PARENT ASSESSMENT

In order to gauge the importance of afterschool programming at Fairview, Mt. Pleasant, Ephraim, and Manti Elementary schools, parents were emailed an anonymous Qualtrics link. Results indicated that parents rely heavily on the 4-H Afterschool program as an essential program in addressing and meeting the needs of low-income families throughout Sanpete County.

- How important is your child(ren)'s involvement in the 4-H Afterschool program?



- Why is it important for your child(ren) to participate in afterschool activities?



4-H AT HOME KITS

During the Spring of 2020, remote learning was put into place, so youth were unable to attend afterschool programs. In order to create opportunities for youth to participate in positive youth development activities, USU faculty and staff partnered with the Utah State 4-H office and three other counties to produce hands-on, STEM kits for at home use. Sanpete County's contributions and results with the project were overwhelmingly positive. Faculty and staff assembled and shipped 7,431 kits to all 29 Utah counties, as well as Kansas, Colorado, and Nevada.



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