EFNEP Connecting with After-school Programs

The Situation
The University of Idaho Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP) had been working with youth after school in several facilities in the community for many years.

In 2004, Pocatello School District 25 received a 21st Century Grant to provide after school activities to three schools in order to help the students pass the required exams for the No Child Left Behind Act. The coordinator of the grant obtained partners to provide good quality activities that would give the students additional education to help them advance. District IV EFNEP and the Extension Nutrition Program (ENP) were trying to collaborate with school districts in the area to provide nutrition education to schools that have 50% or more of their student body on free or reduced lunch. This was the perfect opportunity to get involved with the schools we wanted to reach.

Our Response
In the fall of 2004, the 21st Century Grant Coordinator contacted Bannock County EFNEP to set up classes in three schools to teach nutrition and food safety lessons. Classes that were taught included food safety, hand-washing, the food guide pyramid, and portion sizes along with other lessons in the 4-H projects, Food for All Seasons and Creative Ideas Using Frozen Bread. One of the goals of the 21st Century Grant was to teach the children to learn to follow through and complete what they started.

Program Outcomes
One hundred and thirteen youth enrolled in the EFNEP 4-H projects. There were 144 projects entered into the county fair from this group because 31 of the youth completed both projects. All of the projects were displayed with their poster and a bread dough shape, plus their written work and story that they also received credit for from the school. The youth were extremely happy to get recognition for their work by receiving ribbons and getting to display their work for the public. Additionally those who got blue ribbons, which were all but three at the county fair, were able to take their projects to the Eastern Idaho State Fair.

For More Information
Audrey Liddil, EFNEP Extension Educator
University of Idaho Extension—Bannock County
130 N. 6th
Pocatello, Idaho 83201
208-236-7318
Fax: 208-236-7316
Email: aliddil@uidaho.edu

Karen Barron, 4-H Program Coordinator
District IV EFNEP/ENP
University of Idaho Extension—Bannock County
130 N. 6th
Pocatello, Idaho 83201
208-236-7318
Fax: 208-236-7316
Email: kbarron@uidaho.edu