Self-Directed 4-H Projects
Increase Participation at the Fair

The Situation
Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program 4-H projects entered at the county fair had dipped to 30 projects in 1996. One of the problems was lack of interest in the many outdated, state-endorsed food and nutrition projects that could be entered at the fair.

Our Response
In 1997-98 Bannock County started a new program for 4-H youth called “Self-Directed Projects”. The youth, with their leaders, pick out the goals they want to accomplish in food and nutrition 4-H and then choose activities that help them reach the goals. They must have at least 6 meetings, do a demonstration, create a poster or display, and complete a short one-page record sheet to enter their project in the fair.

Achievements
EFNEP 4-H projects increased to an all time high of 121 projects entered at the Bannock County fair in 1999. The youth are excited to be part of the self-directed learning process and eagerly work with their leaders to set the goals they want to accomplish.

For More Information
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