The Situation
Sixty percent of Americans die without a will and nearly 70 percent report they do not have a living will or medical directive for health care. Many people procrastinate preparing these legal documents because they’re unsure how to begin. Families who have completed end-of-life legal preparations can avoid unnecessary stress and expense resulting from not having these documents.

Our Response
Cooperative Extension professionals need educational resources to teach end-of-life legal topics. The USDA Extension Family Economics Program leader asked the University of Idaho (UI) specialist to recruit a multi-state Extension Family Economics team to develop estate planning teaching resources. Team members from Idaho, Colorado, Kentucky, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Wyoming met via conference calls and web meetings to design a teaching curriculum titled Legally Secure Your Financial Future: Organize, Communicate, Prepare (LSYFF). Curriculum materials include Instructor Guides; PowerPoint slides and teaching notes for three seminars: 1) Organize Your Important Papers, 2) Communicate Your Final Wishes, and 3) Prepare Your Estate Plan; marketing resources, and course evaluations. Team members secured pro bono legal review of materials from attorneys. The team partnered with the University of Idaho Educational Communications department to disseminate the curriculum via the web at: http://www.ag.uidaho.edu/lsyff.

Team members advertised the website to educators through the national Program Leader’s newsletter, a personal finance association newsletter, and presentations at meetings of four national professional associations and two regional associations.

When eXtension, a national extension consumer website delivering the best information from land grant universities, was announced Family Economics leadership asked the team to adapt LSYFF materials as Learning Lessons for this site. The team secured federal grant funding for curriculum adaptation. Consumers can directly
access LSYFF materials through eXtension at: http://www.extension.org/pages/Legally_Secure_Your_Financial_Future.

Program Outcomes
LSYFF Web-based Curriculum
Within six months of publication the LSYFF curriculum website was accessed more than 16,000 times by individuals residing in every state in the U.S. and every continent except Antarctica.


The LSYFF course was taught 10 times to 920 adults in southwest Idaho. Pre- and 6-month follow-up evaluations document results:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Task</th>
<th>Pre-</th>
<th>6-Months later</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Completed living will</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>87%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Completed health care Power of Attorney</td>
<td>32%</td>
<td>81%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Organized family records</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>88%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wrote will</td>
<td>44%</td>
<td>81%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

LSYFF Website
The eXtension website was launched in mid-February 2008. Because of the recency of the launch, site visit data is not yet available. In mid-March a financial services business requested permission to link its e-newsletter (circulation 40,000 clients) to a section of LSYFF.

For More Information
Marilyn Bischoff, Extension Family Economics Specialist
School of Family and Consumer Sciences
University of Idaho Extension
322 E. Front St., Ste. 180
Boise, Idaho 83702
208-364-9910
Fax: 208-364-4035
Email: mbischof@uidaho.edu

Beverly Healy, Extension Educator
University of Idaho Extension—Ada County
5880 Glenwood St.
Boise, Idaho 83714
208-377-2107
Fax: 208-375-8715
Email: bhealy@uidaho.edu

Erik Anderson, Director, Educational Communications
College of Agricultural and Life Sciences
University of Idaho
Moscow, ID 83844-2332
208-885-6632
Fax: 208-885-9046
Email: eanderso@uidaho.edu

Marlene Fritz, Extension Communications Specialist
University of Idaho Extension
322 E. Front St., Ste. 180
Boise, Idaho 83702
208-364-6165
Fax: 208-364-4035
Email: mfritz@uidaho.edu