Lewis county making the best better

The Situation
Lewis County may be small in size but when it comes to the Lewis County 4-H Program the growth they have seen in the last 5 years is anything but small! Members and leader enrollment has rose to an all time high with an increase of 57%.

Our Response
Along with the increase in members our project numbers have seen a rise especially in the large animals area. This past year it became apparent that we could no longer hold all of our animals in our current barn. Through the efforts of Extension staff, Fairboard, 4-H leaders and parents, money was raised to build a new beef barn. The C.H. Memorial Barn which will have it’s finishing touches put on this Spring and will be paid in full.

Spring Into 4-H Fun

"Spring Into 4-H Fun" is a fun and educational program that is taught by Extension Staff and volunteers. It is a one day event that is held during spring break and is rotated to the different Lewis County communities each year.

Bus transportation is provide to insure that all children have an equal opportunity to participate.

Spring Into 4-H Fun is for any child ages 8 to 18 who would like to participate in a day of fun, hands-on activities. This allows us to reach children of low-income and working parent families and provide them a safe learning place instead of possibly being home alone or in less desirable care.

Activities have included: rockets, woodworking, super snacks, scrapbooking, terrariums, sport fishing, holiday keepsakes, wildlife, small animals, basket-
ball, cake decorating, electricity, wildlife and community service projects.

Cost to participate in Spring Into 4-H Fun is kept to a minimal amount through a grant received from the Idaho Friends of 4-H.

Community Service and Beyond

Lewis County 4-H members helped our American soldiers serving in Iraq and Afghanistan beat the heat in the searing desert by sending them neck coolers that they made at a community service day event.

Members rotated through the different stations learning to turn the fabric tube, mark the measurements, fill with the water absorbing beads and sewing to create an item that can help our servicemen and women get relief from the 130 degree Fahrenheit temperature.

One hundred and seventy five neck coolers made their way overseas in July, a token of our appreciation for their service. Our soldiers expressed their gratitude by sending back a certificate and an American flag that was carried on a combat mission over Baghdad, Iraq in a UH-60 Blackhawk helicopter.

Program Outcomes

As the Lewis County 4-H program has grown and expanded we continue to take great pride in our project completion rate. It ranks very high on the list of 4-H leaders, parents and members, with Lewis County project completion between 91% and as high as 95% annually.