

Northwest Area Advisory Follow-Up Report

Can Do, Can Not, Possible

Updated January 29, 2009

Human Resources Issues

CAN DO

Big Horn County Survey:

- Character development – being done by 4-H's Character Counts
- Global awareness – being done through 4-H's SET

Big Horn Café Night:

- Market Extension that it is NOT just ag-related – include FCS – develop county or NW Area brochure to be distributed through Chambers, Newcomers packets, variety of agencies; could be initiative-specific
- Work Force Development – being done through 4-H's WYLE program
- Farm-to-table – Work with ag educators by teaching classes at WESTI Ag Days and Farm and Ranch Days; other counties as appropriate
- Improve cooking skills and nutritional knowledge -- work with 4-H/youth programs (Boys and Girls Clubs, after-school organized groups) to teach the Calcium Science Investigator (CSI) lessons; nutritional knowledge classes taught in schools; Dining with Diabetes
- Promote 'slow food' versus 'fast foods' – teach WIC classes; Master Food Safety Advisor lessons and Eating Better/Eating Together classes
- Food safety regulations for fundraisers – work with Dept. of Ag inspectors to teach Going for the Gold, temporary food safety education; ServSafe
- Packet of information for new citizens on what we offer – develop county or NW Area brochure to be distributed through Chambers, Newcomers packets, variety of agencies; could be initiative-specific

Overall survey results:

- Recycling 'things'; waste management – Living Greener lesson; Reduce/Reuse/Recycle Collection Day; newspaper/radio/newsletter PSAs on recycling hints
- Healthy eco-system – Living Greener, can be co-taught at ag-related programs
- Affordable food – Master Food Safety Advisor, work with Master Gardeners and Farmers Market sellers and buyers
- Healthy lifestyles – Eating Better/Eating Together; Eating Better Cent\$ibly; Living Greener; Dining with Diabetes; Intuitive Eating; A New You; Steps to A New You

- Second language program – being done through CNP and Cindy Aguilar
- Assist low-income families – being done through CNP educators

CAN NOT DO

Big Horn County Survey:

- Jobs to sustain families – Being done by Work Force Investment; Small Business Councils and SBA; IDEA Inc (brain-trust organization); local economy
- Substance abuse – Being done by Tobacco and Drug Intervention; Youth Alternatives; police departments and drug courts; 4-H provides a family-oriented group setting that promotes individual recognition and encourages healthy lifestyles that, in turn, discourages gang and drug activity
- Alternative energy sources – Being addressed by ag educators
- Community mental health – Being done by mental health/counseling agencies
- Affordable housing – Economy runs this area as well as realtors and construction companies; availability of housing is a factor
- Living wage – Need more definition of what a ‘living wage’ is and how to achieve it; refer back to first item above (Jobs to sustain families)

Big Horn Café Night:

- Stability in schools and Extension
- Funding opportunities for high school seniors attending trade schools and other higher levels of education – Hathaway scholarships help here; Washakie County organizations (CowBelles, Delta Kappa Gamma, Washakie County Homemakers) are giving scholarships for people over the traditional age to return to school
- At-risk parent training – Could be done through churches; being done through court-appointed classes; some Victims of Violence and Youth Alternatives groups address this as well as at-risk groups; could teach Eating Better/Eating Together classes as appropriate
- Transportation to activities – Encourage carpooling or holding events in a common area readily available to many people
- Strong library system – State legislature is working on this with matching funds raised by each library

Overall survey results:

- Dental and health care –CHIP, Public Health, organizations such as Lions Club that gives glasses to the needy; Shriners who help burn victims and those with physical disabilities, etc. In our 4-H Fabric and Fashion project, there is a section that deals with personal care which could be included in this area
- Spiritual health – depends on church’s influence

- Programs for people with disabilities – being addressed by Big Horn Enterprises and NOWCAP; UWCES policy follows the indicia that all programming efforts are available to everyone without discrimination
- School retention – is a School District’s problem to solve
- Work ethics – doesn’t this stem from the parents’ work ethics?
- Second language program – being addressed with CNP educator Cindy Aguilar; also schools are mandated to teach a second language
- Parenting classes – County-based and supported organizations; see Big Horn County Café Night At-risk parent training section
- Assist low-income families – being addressed by CNP educators

Financial Issues

Extension can help get people integrated into the community

CAN DO

- Big Horn Counties future should include/utilize
 - Clean air/water
 - Work w/ troubled youth with 4-H
- Keep Small Business viable via community support, health insurance, use people within the community for services, encouragement. Small businesses also need help getting started, need equity already built, need backing, need resources about where to go to start a small business. Small business entrepreneurs also need to think outside the box when starting a business. Uniqueness, pricing, availability, and selection all play a role in success of small business. Could UW provide training on how to start a small business, marketing, etc.? Need diversification in community, within businesses and communities and a willingness to change. – business enterprise classes
- Everything comes from/starts with the Agricultural base of Big Horn County. Keep it sustainable and produce a viable product.
- Good employees-how do we keep them? – employee mgmt courses/ work ethics courses

CAN NOT DO

- Big Horn Counties future should include/utilize
 - Outdoor beauty/recreation – suggest combining Hunting with a Spa Day (M + F event)
 - Healthy balance of business and outdoors
 - Progressive thinking
 - Safe community
- Problem that north Big Horn county is so close to other larger communities where they go to shop and purchase other supplies instead of supporting county based businesses.
- Question arose as to whether industry or agriculture puts more money back into the community. Industry needs to be self sustaining.
- Wages need to be competitive with other areas and states
- Cost of living
- Natural resources need to be developed – not our job – WY Business Council

- Beauty
- Recreation
- Refine resources here-more money for what we well

POSSIBLE

- Packet for new citizens, possibly from the chamber with community resources – Welcome visits to new residents
- Big Horn Counties future should include/utilize
 - Community oriented – Leadership Institutes
- Transportation resources – There are county high school students who would like to work. However, both parents work and take the family vehicles. Provide daily transportation for students to Powell or Cody for summer jobs.
- KIDS-our most valuable resource. Need higher end education jobs to bring kids back to the community. Hope is for small businesses to help fill this area...tech jobs. Invest in our own community, be involved.
- Low cost of living brings undesirable elements (ie sex offenders) into the community. How do we deal with this?
- Need for training within the state and county-how can they get more locally and keep up with industry?
- Need to show youth that trade/tech/skill oriented schools are very valuable, needed, and can provide competitive wages. How can scholarships be provided for this type of education?

<h2>Infrastructure Resources Issues</h2>

CAN DO

- In general, people don't realize how much it costs to build a home. Could educate people on this.
- "Living on a Few Acres" workshop have been good and are a good thing for the county--this maybe doesn't have a lot to with the price of housing but they still felt they were good for landowners.
- Residents suggested that Extension could offer networking and round table discussion like the Extension Café to help with the housing shortage.
- Help educate people on how to find homes that are not advertised, many times homes are sold or rented by word of mouth.
- Educating on the importance of insulation in all the right places and energy efficient doors and windows.
- Extension could help with housing by offering education to people on money matters and budgeting. Residents suggested that many home owners, especially young people don't know how to manage their money properly in order to buy a home.
- They mentioned on-line budgeting books that use to be available which were very good. This is something Extension could also promote or create our own version.

- Extension could also help to make people aware of opportunities available such as Spruce-up loans and WCDA assistance for home buyers.
- Extension could educate on resources that are available out there...HUD funds.
- People also don't know if they are eligible for certain programs and assistance. Extension could educate more on this.
- Informing buyers on what's available to them is important role Extension could play
 - Spruce-Up loans
 - WCDA
 - HUD loans
 - First Time Home Buyers education
 - LIEAP-low income energy assistance program
- Extension could also take part in teaching people about what is available as far as alternative energy.
- Getting back to the basics—solar housing, earth burms, South facing homes, planting trees around homes to retain heat would be good things to promote again.
- We need more conservative energy consumption. This would also be a good thing to promote.
- Extension can try to make some of these “back to the basics” ideas attractive to the public instead of using scare tactics that are often used elsewhere.

CAN NOT DO

- The housing situation is often controlled by towns, so residents aren't sure how Extension can help.
- People also have a hard time selling their homes.
- There are high costs associated with building homes.
- We need a way to control costs.
- Water is an issue because even if you buy property, often times you still have to put in a well. It may also be difficult to get water rights for irrigating.
- Towns are often land locked by public lands so it is hard to expand out with subdivisions.
- There are hardly any rentals and people really need rentals right now because they can't afford to buy with the current high prices.
- There are currently less people selling their homes and more people renting
- There has been a huge price jump.
- Encourage people to throw away credit cards!
- Wind and solar power are good, but this type of alternative energy is probably out of reach for most people.
- Big Horn County is not a windy county---so wind power may not be feasible.

POSSIBLE

- If was felt that developing smaller, communal type living spaces was a good idea for seniors who may be looking to move out of bigger homes. This would in turn create more housing for families.
- Extension should be involved in promoting the building or conversion of energy efficient homes.
- Getting back to promoting starter homes instead of big, big homes!
- Building energy efficient homes should be a priority.
- One thing extension could do is to help educate the town governments on the purchase of federal lands.
- Montana has a cost share program on solar panels. Maybe Extension could find out about similar programs for Wyoming and promote them.

Natural Resources

1. What is the most critical economic limitation effecting you and your Ag Operation?

- Priority 1=INPUT COSTS===Land, Water, Taxes, Fuel, Equipment, Chemicals, Fertilizer, Labor
- Priority 2=MARKETS=Markets are limited, and far from consumers
- Priority 3=MONEY MANAGEMENT=Need help with Budgets, Need to accurately know actual input and production costs
- Other items identified:
 - Keeping talented youth involved in Ag and keeping them in this area
 - Start Up Costs are very High and hard to get started in Ag
 - Farm Bill -Is unknown and hard to plan around not knowing what to expect and what help will be available to ag producers
 - More Ag Producers need to learn the detail of Farm Bill and how it can assist them.

2. How do we best address our Big Horn Basin Water Management Issues?

- Priority 1=NEED FOR EDUCATION=Need Education on all Irrigation System Efficiencies and their uses.
- Priority 2=WATER STORAGE=Need to meet present and future Ag Needs
- Priority 3=WATER QUALITY=Contaminants in Rivers, Streams and Wells such as E Coli and others=Just opens the door for others to try and take water from Ag and have control over water and the land.
- Other Issues Identified:
 - Lack of Weirs on some Systems=Have no control over amount of water used-very important during droughts and shortages
 - Need funding for small waters system improvements under Wyoming Water Commission Funds

- Need Education for Small Acreage Owners on Water Rights and Water Laws
- Need to maintain Reservoirs, Ponds =Need to clean and repair so they properly work and function
- Need Better Water distribution on the Rangelands to get better range utilization
- Need for more Raw Water systems in towns and cities.

3. What Educational Resources, assistance or programs do you need to make your Ag Operation successful and or profitable?

- Priority number 1=EDUCATION= Need Education on Computers, GPS, GIS, Technologies and Electronics and how to use them on the farm and ranch. And need Education on developing and using Crop and Livestock Budgets.
- Priority number 2=Research= U W Ag Research is critical and very much needed, it addresses the things we need answered and solved to be profitable and sustainable.
- Only 2 Priorities were identified with this question. And no other items were identified

Youth Issues

1 - Where do you see the 4-H Program in five to ten years?

CAN DO

- Increased enrollment
- Program stronger throughout community, more community influence
- Market opportunities for non-traditional 4-H
- Educate adults on 4-H opportunities for youth(non-traditional, SET, Skateboarding, arts)
- Unique opportunities and scholarships to meet the needs of youth, opportunities only offered through 4-H
- Social opportunities cross county and state
- Create 4-H opportunity for travel, diversification of 4-H opportunities

CAN NOT DO

- Concern with competition with sports and extra curricular activities
- Conflicts with family time, to much to do, to little time(healthy family dynamic)
- Issue-too much, parent can't do one more thing
- Cost is an issue since 4-H is not school sponsored like other activities

POSSIBLE

- More school involvement(recruitment of youth through involvement and 4-H school programming)
- Vocational opportunities supported through 4-H
- FCSC school programs to strengthen 4-H FCSC project areas
- School contests

These are all issues that I believe that we can not control, extenuating circumstances. People have to make choices what is important to them. So we have to make 4-H Important enough to be involved in. No real programming issues with these comments.

2 - How can we be a better resource and support system for our leaders???

CAN DO

- Set a good example, role modeling
- Marketing in younger grades, inform community, get youth involved and engaged
- Get into schools
- Diversify, promote non-agriculture projects(dog, photography, rocketry)
- Find motivated leaders in all areas, get youth excited
- Leader training, in youth development
- Stay current, keep leaders up on all information about 4-H and project areas specifically
- Make 4-H leader and youth accomplishments visible in community
- Email chain to communicate, use community channel
- Key project leaders for entire county

CAN NOT DO

- Don't overdo, adults get overcommitted, often those attending leader trainings etc. are not those in need of further training

Another management issue that we can not control

POSSIBLE

- Cloverbuds
- Parents stay involved, attend meetings(4-H is not a babysitting service)
- Underfunded programs, provide financial support, grant funding etc.
- Posters in schools for activities and general meetings
- Working with schools and staff to promote programming

3 - What do you see as programming needs that are lacking in our area?

CAN DO

- More activities, creating positive things for youth to do(safe environment)

- Outdoor recreation (skateboarding etc.)
- Music, dance, cultural arts offered through 4-H
- Character Counts, Character building activities
- Hiking, leadership, teambuilding activities
- More leaders
- Mentorship, older 4-Her's helping younger members
- Giving back, reward system, the gift of giving
- Rewards for doing good or being good, field trips based on point system
- Teambuilding

POSSIBLE

- Engaging the "left behind" youth in 4-H
- "Getting over the idea that everything should be fun for youth" (gratification from hard work, job well done)

Social Issues

CAN DO

- Reward and recognize people for good behavior – an understanding they are doing it for the better good
 - Understanding how people like to be recognized (using the recognition model already developed)
 - For example:
 - Leadership programs – could have a theme for the day or institute
 - 4-H Program – newspaper, personal thank-you's
- Increasing or spread the work out by getting more people involved and getting the word out in the community
 - Desire for increased volunteerism comes from developing leadership skills. How do we involve people in our programs? Get buy-in from the community from the ground level of developing a program (have them help get the word out). HOW?
 - For example WESTI Ag Days – chamber committee working side by side with educator.
- Begin teaching work ethics, responsibility and accountability at a young age to make a difference in a child's life.
 - Incorporate into all initiative areas possibly using the Character Counts theory

