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WIRE - Finally Finds Its Way To Idaho

Joel Packham, Bear Lake County

After finding success in Wyoming, Montana, and Utah, the Western Integrated Ranch/Farm Education (WIRE) program is finally making an appearance in Idaho. This comprehensive farm and ranch management course was developed by the University of Wyoming and has been adapted for producers in other states. The initial training of extension personnel will be given in Idaho Falls during early December. With the use of a SARE grant, Extension Educators will be allowed to attend the WIRE training at no cost. Producers from Idaho are also asked to attend with extension people so a group can be formed to bring the WIRE program to the Gem State.

The WIRE program looks at all aspects of an operation. This training includes the process of management: Goals, Priorities, Decision Making, Planning, Budgeting, Record Keeping, and Evaluation. The program gives information and tools to work at the Strategic, Tactical and operational Levels. The strategic level covers goals for the operation as well as personal goals. It also forces the producers to do a resource inventory for all aspects of the operation. The tactical level looks at the individual enterprises, technologies that are possible for an operation, costs of labor and money, and teaches what the expected results should be. The operational level gives managers tools to understand the relationship and interactions of the major resources like rangeland, crops, livestock, wildlife, finances, human creativity and labor.

If you would like to be part of this exciting program in Idaho, please contact Kendall Johnson, Ken Sanders, or Joel Packham. We are working to adapt the WIRE program to the Idaho system. We need help to accomplish this task especially if you consider the number of Extension Ag personnel that we don't have to work with due to cut backs. We strongly encourage your support and help in this effort.