



extension  
**IMPACTS**

Population increases in Fremont County over the last five years is changing our rural landscape and is adding a new clientele basis for extension programs.

## New-to-the-land workshops address changing landscape

### **Situation:**

Agriculture has always been the economic, agronomic, and natural resources cornerstone in Fremont County and has typically preserved and maintained the rural landscape and provided beautiful vista-abundant wildlife populations.

Population increases in Fremont County over the last five years is changing our rural landscape and is adding a new clientele basis for extension programs and a huge new demand for assistance from “new-to-the-land” landowners who have moved into new rural subdivisions and small-acreage homesites. Fremont County in the past five years has had approximately 210 new individual and separate subdivisions, which has helped increase our county population growth rate by 2.5- to 3-percent per year, with the majority in the rural areas.

To help serve the new-to-the-land, small-acreage demands for educational programming and assistance, four Barnyards and Backyards small-acreage workshops were held in Lander in 2008 with programs ranging from gardening, what to plant, composting, apple tree care, and preserving the harvest, to making jerky, wine, jams and jellies, extending the gardening season, and pasture improvements.

### **Impacts:**

Attendees at the three one-day programs ranged from 50, 75, and 150, while one workshop was cancelled because of 12 inches of snow the morning of the program. Attendees were asked to evaluate workshops using a Likert scale, with 1 being poor and 5 being excellent. When asked the overall score of the three workshops, 70 percent rated them as 5, 26 percent as 4, and only 4 percent as 3.

Most importantly, when asked “Will you use this information to change what you currently do?”, they rated the workshop with 80 percent as a 5, 15 percent as a 4, and 5 percent as a 3.

#### Comments from attendees

- Excellent workshops – very educational, really enjoyed them.
- Great presentations, excellent information, good variety of topics.
- Plan on developing my own garden and planting fruit trees.
- These were wonderful workshops.
- Will change the way and methods I use to make jerky – Thanks.
- Really learned a lot about canning and preserving produce.
- Plan on rehabilitating my pasture – learned a lot of valuable information that showed me what to plant to get to my goal – appreciate it.
- Great programs on apples and making wines.

Four Barnyards and Backyards small-acreage workshops were held with programs ranging from gardening, composting, apple tree care, and preserving the harvest, to extending the gardening season, and pasture improvements.

---

Ron Cunningham  
University Extension Educator  
Northwest Extension Area/Big Horn, Fremont, Hot Springs, Park, and Washakie  
counties and Wind River Indian Reservation  
(307) 332-1044  
e-mail: ronc@uwyo.edu