

## WIRE Comes to Idaho

By: Steven Harrison  
Caribou County Extension Educator

The Western Integrated Ranch/Farm Education Program will be offered in Southeast Idaho this year. The five day class will be taught on November 4, 5, 11, 18 and 25, 1997.

WIRE is a whole-ranch/farm management program that emphasizes the process of management — setting goals, priorities, making decisions, planning, budgeting, keeping records, and performing evaluations with personal goals and optimization in mind.

The process begins at the strategic level with goal setting, followed by thorough analysis and inventory of what you have to work with (physical) and financial resources, operator management skills, etc.) This is done at the more general or strategic level of management.

Once you have a clear picture of where you are and where you're headed with the operation, WIRE provides the planning and decision making tools to get you there. At the tactical level of management, you get much more specific about enterprises the operation will pursue, technologies it will use, changes to be implemented, cost in time, labor, and dollars and expected results. Analysis of how enterprises relate to each other is also conducted.

Finally, at the operational level, management plans must be implemented. WIRE deals in detail with the practical, on-the-ground, how-to-do-it questions. At the operational level of management, the operator

decides the specifics of how, when, and by whom the management plan is to be accomplished. Monitoring of resource use and positive, proactive responses to change are also discussed. WIRE gives managers the tools to understand the relationships and interactions of the major resources like rangeland, crops, livestock, wildlife, finances, human creativity, and labor.

WIRE is team-taught by University of Idaho extension educators and specialists. A detailed, six year case study illustrates many of the concepts and specifics of the process. Participants are able to use or adapt many of the planning, record-keeping, and analysis tools from this case study on their own operations. While course content includes some formal presentations, emphasis is on "hands-on" work in small groups or as individuals, with practical, problems in agriculture management. The instructional team is dedicated to teaching the philosophy and process of good management as well as technical knowledge about various resources.

If you are interested in taking the WIRE course or would like more information about the WIRE program, please call Steven Harrison in Caribou County at 547-3205, or Joel Packham in Bear Lake County at 945-2265.