

EXTENSION TRENDS: **BONNEVILLE COUNTY**

University of Idaho Extension, Bonneville County • www.uidaho.edu/bonneville



2024 By the Numbers

- **23,278** direct contacts
- **860** youth participants
- **135** volunteers
- **26,207** volunteer hours
- **\$707,214** extramural funding

Our Advisory Council

Special thanks to our volunteers who help shape programming and inform the work we do for UI Extension in Bonneville County: Kathy Duplessis, Sandra Deatherage, Diana Skoy, Marnie Spencer, Donna Whitham, Mark Whitham, Wendie Radford, Catherine Dudley, Karen Foster, Brian Andersen, Bryon Reed, Mark Wilson, Phil Browning, Joy Boyle, Sally Tangren, Jody Cornilsen, Molly Brinkerhoff, Jan Prudent, Aliece Rasmussen, Nathan Rasmussen, Aubrey Kerr, Gary Lewis, Julie Finup, Lauralynn Mclsaac and Vikki Gerdes.

UI Extension Educators



Leslee Blanch
208-529-1390
lblanch@uidaho.edu



Ron Patterson
208-529-1390
rpatterson@uidaho.edu



Paige Wray
208-529-1390
pwrap@uidaho.edu

2024 Impact

Asynchronous agriculture and horticulture programs developed by Extension Educator Ron Patterson have continued to provide educational opportunities to farmers and home gardeners. The Eastern Idaho Pest Alert newsletter and Idaho Home Garden Tips online classes continue as a source of real-time gardening assistance. Patterson produced 84 educational videos for specific classes and public access on horticulture and agriculture topics. Thirty-eight Master Gardeners donated over 5,900 hours of volunteer service to help promote and maintain a more beautiful and sustainable Bonneville County community.

In addition to nutrition-based classes and regularly scheduled fitness programs, new wellness topics offered in Bonneville County include Poverty in Idaho: Considerations for Community Partners; Mindfulness: Making Healthy Connections; and Ageless Grace for Body, Brain, and Balance fitness class in collaboration with the Idaho Falls Family YMCA. Educator Leslee Blanch expanded partnerships to include regular classes at Idaho Falls Rescue Mission and Bonneville County Jail. The Greater Idaho Falls Chamber of Commerce provided new opportunities for program promotion and presentation. Dementia Friends and brain health presentations continue to be a focus.

4-H in Bonneville County

Youth in Bonneville County have the opportunity to join clubs and learn about everything from livestock to cats, cooking, robotics, sewing and even shooting sports. This learning is made possible through caring adult volunteers in the community. Bonneville County 4-H included 95 adult volunteers for the 2023-2024 year. These volunteers not only ran clubs, but they attended council meetings, helped at fair and provided day camps to youth.

Educator Paige Wray continued her focused efforts on expanding opportunities in healthy living, teen leadership, youth partnerships and STEM. Participation in district and state activities has increased among youth in the county. This has led to increased leadership skills and youth adult partnerships. Bonneville County had its first LifeSmarts team for the 2023-2024 competition season. This team attended practices and the state competition where knowledge was learned and assessed on topics such as health and safety, technology and the environment. With the help of two AmeriCorps volunteers, the 4-H day camps, in-school and afterschool outreach offerings were expanded, resulting in 5,825 direct contacts

On the Horizon

Patterson will continue to develop programs that are accessible to all people on their own schedule. Blanch will continue to focus on mental health and providing programming to assist with mental health and aging issues. Wray will continue to help youth in Bonneville County thrive by refining educational offerings and providing opportunities to learn, lead and serve.