

EXTENSION TRENDS: **CARIBOU COUNTY**

University of Idaho Extension, Caribou County • www.uidaho.edu/caribou



2024 By the Numbers

- **2,591** direct contacts
- **279** youth participants
- **25** volunteers
- **1,087** volunteer hours
- **\$94,702** extramural funding

Our Advisory Council

Special thanks to our volunteers who help shape programming and inform the work we do for UI Extension in Caribou County: Jake Ozbourn, Blair Rindlisbaker, Eric Simonson, KT Dredge, Jennifer Smith, Laurie Kendrick, Eisa Curran, Sarah Jensen, Karley Jensen, Dusti Spencer, Dirk Johnson, Katie VanDyke, Royce Hatch, Brantly Hatch, Charity Partain, Ross Carrol and Brandi Carrol.

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2024 Impact

According to the 2023 USDA Agriculture report, wheat and barley grown in Idaho are valued at more than \$1.1 billion, making them among the most important crops in Idaho. Small improvements in a billion-dollar industry can yield huge returns for those involved. Similarly, Caribou County's agriculture industry relies heavily on cereal grain production. To help cereal grain producers, UI Extension hosts educational activities like Cereal School to disseminate research-based information to producers and others involved in the industry. Before selecting speakers for Cereal School, UI Extension hosted an advisory meeting to assess the needs of local producers, which was critical to planning the event. Not only did Cereal School help producers in Caribou County, but it also benefited producers across southeast Idaho.

To evaluate the effect of Cereal School on producers, participants were asked to complete a survey that gauged their knowledge before and after presentations as well as the economic impact that it would have on their farms. 96% of participants who completed the survey reported that they gained knowledge by attending. Participants were asked to rate their knowledge before and after hearing each presentation and reported that, on average, their knowledge increased by 1.1 on a 1-5 scale. Producers were asked to estimate the program's value on their farms (cost savings and/or increased revenue), and 35 farmers responded by saying that, on average, the knowledge they received by attending Cereal School would save or profit their farm \$12 per acre. Farmers attending Cereal School reported that they collectively manage 104,451 acres. Multiplying \$12 by 104,451 acres gives us a total of \$1,253,412 that farmers saved or profited from attending Cereal School.

4-H in Caribou County

UI Extension, Caribou County offered an array of programs for youth to develop life skills. Some programs included working ranch horse, horse, market animal, sewing, tree identification, plant identification, wildlife education, farm-to-table, shooting sports, fishing, small engines, and many other craft/STEAM day camps. With the help of volunteers, UI Extension was able to offer dog 4-H which is a new program in Caribou County. 4-H programs continue to grow, with more and more youth and leaders getting involved.

On the Horizon

UI Extension strives to meet the needs of the community by offering relevant programs and conducting local research. Plans are underway to continue assisting with UI Extension cereal variety trials, the aphid monitoring network, barley liming trials, hay and forage research, and other projects that will benefit local producers. There is great excitement about the future of Extension and 4-H in Caribou County.