

EXTENSION TRENDS: **FRANKLIN COUNTY**

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2024 By the Numbers

- **4,218** direct contacts
- **3,205** youth participants
- **62** volunteers
- **372** volunteer hours

Our Advisory Council

Special thanks to our volunteers who help shape programming and inform the work we do for UI Extension in Franklin County: Dirk Bowles, Kory Kay, Cami Fellows, Jennifer Meek, Darin Drainsfield and Lynn Harris.

UI Extension Educators



Bracken Henderson
208-852-1097
brackenh@uidaho.edu



Laura Sant
208-852-1097
lsant@uidaho.edu

2024 Impact

Educator Laura Sant is the state contact for the Ready, Set, Food Safe program taught by Extension educators and high school FCS teachers. High school students must achieve an 80% or higher on the certification exam to receive an Idaho Food Handler's Certificate which is good for five years. Sant distributed 2,599 certificates in 2024. She also taught two six-week sessions of Preserve@Home with educators from Idaho and Wyoming. Thirty-one (86%) of participants had a grade of 70% or better showing increased knowledge of safe home food preservation methods. An average of 55% of participants indicated learning about safe food preservation and 100% indicated they planned to use research-based food preservation skills in the future. Through the UI Extension, Franklin County wellness program, 45% of county employees made a lifestyle goal to maintain or improve some aspect of their health and received a \$50 incentive. Of those who made, reached and maintained their goal, 53% attended at least two educational classes and continued their employment with the county, receiving an additional \$50 incentive.

Educator Bracken Henderson continued to collect data on field bindweed treatments for a project evaluating the long-term efficacy of treatments. During the 2024 maple syrup season Henderson processed 17.96 gallons of syrup from three sites with varying numbers of tapped trees per site. The highest producing site (Cox) had 58 taps and produced 9.8 gallons of sap per tap. The second highest producing site (Box Elder) had 25 taps and produced 6.8 gallons of sap per tap and the lowest producing site (Stewart) had 121 taps and produced 2.3 gallons of sap per tap. More taps will be added to the Cox site in 2025, and Henderson will continue evaluating the viability of this venture to produce a marketable product for Idaho maple tappers.

4-H in Franklin County

There were 62 volunteers and 385 4-H members enrolled in 804 projects in 2024, with 753 projects completed. Sant taught/co-taught four clubs/day camps (21 classes), three school enrichment programs (12 classes) and one district sewing volunteer training workshop. Henderson taught 20 classes on various topic. Sant helped plan and conduct the Alpine 4-H Camp and Henderson served as treasurer and helped to facilitate operations. Sant also assisted with planning and presenting 4-H projects, contests and activities at the Franklin County Fair and Eastern Idaho State Fair. Henderson and Sant co-taught one 30-minute tobacco and vaping prevention lesson to 47 fourth and fifth grade students at Harold B. Lee Elementary, designed to increase knowledge about the dangers of tobacco and vaping. Forty-five surveys about the effectiveness of the program were returned and an average of 54% of participants indicated learning more information about the dangers of using tobacco products.

On the Horizon

Sant will continue to offer in-person and online health, nutrition, food safety and preservation instruction, including stress management and mental health education.

In 2024 Henderson started writing an educational article for East Idaho News and Idaho Farm and Ranch, reaching 917,101 indirect contacts. This has been a valuable outreach opportunity and will continue in 2025. Henderson is evaluating the popularity of various topics to help direct future topics of most interest to a broad audience.