

# EXTENSION TRENDS: **IDAHO COUNTY**

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## 2024 By the Numbers

- 12,755 direct contacts
- 1,138 youth participants
- 144 volunteers
- 6,640 volunteer hours
- \$25,800 extramural funding

## Our Advisory Councils

Special thanks to our volunteers who help shape programming and inform the work we do for UI Extension in Idaho County: Helen Rowland, Gary Crea, Tia Schumacher, James Boggan, Julia McCarthy, Sarah Park, Rick Turner, Ron Van Buren, Casey Cochran, Tesse Pineda, Heather Kestner, Leslie McIntire, Abby Jones, Katrena Hauger, Andrea Solberg, Dustin Elliot, Eve McColloch, Lance McColloch, Kristi Brooks and Teri Wassmuth.

## UI Extension Educator



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## 2024 Impact

Educator Meranda Small organized and hosted regional Beef Schools in Lewiston, Cottonwood and Sandpoint, focusing on beef cattle nutrition and management. Basic livestock care information was provided at area small farms events and livestock handling information was provided as part of the area 4-H Livestock Field Days. The Young Cattle Producers Conference completed its eighth year with eight producers attending. Small continues to serve in her role as an Idaho Beef Quality Assurance state coordinator in partnership with the Idaho Beef Council. In addition to providing training and mentoring new trainers, she manages the content of the program. BQA training and certification was offered by Small as part of her role on the Beef 101: Pacific Northwest Beginning Rancher Program grant. Small is also a co-PI on a Western Extension Risk Management grant, Mitigating Risks Towards a Secure Beef Supply in Western States, serving as the lead for Idaho.

Educator Kirstin Jensen partnered with co-authors of Five for Five – 5 Minutes to Better Health to present the physical activity curriculum nationally. She worked with educators from four universities and local school districts to complete the pilot and survey. Five for Five will be presented during the 2025 Idaho Legislative session to determine logistics of including the curriculum in Idaho schools. Jensen offered two online Mental Health First Aid courses, certifying 40 adults. She also received \$5,200 in external funding to plan and conduct eight healthy lifestyle events for PICH Extreme Adventure Club, reaching 200 youth. Jensen partnered with a fellow UI Extension educator to organize and facilitate five Dementia Friends informational sessions in the Northern District, and presented a poster with five Extension educators at UI Extension Annual Conference and nationally.

Victory Garden programming was offered by UI Extension staff and Master Gardener volunteers, reaching full capacity. A canning class was offered featuring applesauce preservation in partnership with community members and UI Extension, Nez Perce County.

## 4-H in Idaho County

Idaho County has 18 4-H clubs and at least one club in each of the county's seven communities. Over 400 youth participated in 4-H clubs in 2024 led by almost 100 adult volunteers. The 4-H program has two teen leadership development groups. The Ambassador Program is for teens in 9-12 grades. Participants attend monthly meetings to develop leadership, public speaking and organizational skills. The M.O.D. Squad (Members of Distinction) is for teens in 7-8 grades. This group is for those who are ready to expand their leadership skills outside of club activities. Members have a leadership role in county activities held throughout the year. Fourteen teens participated in 2024. In addition to overnight camp, two day camps were offered, Sewing Day and 4-H Day Camp, which are free of charge. The Farm and Forest Fair is offered to area schools as an educational event promoting the importance of natural resources. Eleven area schools attended with 280 youth.

## On the Horizon

Mitigating Risks Towards a Secure Beef Supply in Western States programming will conclude in 2025. The next phase of Beef 101: Pacific Northwest Beginning Rancher Program will be offered. Working with neighboring counties and Idaho County Master Gardener Volunteers, another offering of the Victory Garden program will occur in late winter.