

EXTENSION TRENDS: **JEFFERSON COUNTY**

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2024 By the Numbers

- **3,420** direct contacts
- **591** youth participants
- **79** volunteers
- **1,248** volunteer hours
- **\$7,363** extramural funding

Our Advisory Council

Special thanks to our volunteers who help shape programming and inform the work we do for UI Extension in Jefferson County: Holly Handcock, Allan Clark, Gabriel Arteaga, Brittney Fielding, Amber Harris, Donna Young, Marcia McMannis, Alicia Nef and Leland Smith.

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2024 Impact

Hands-on food preservation classes were well attended in 2024, with a focus on high-acid foods like fruits and salsa, and low-acid foods such as vegetables and meats. Participants expressed enthusiasm for learning a new skill or increasing knowledge to better serve their families and the community. UI Extension's purpose is to educate on appropriate and acceptable practices surrounding food preservation, to dispel myths and present research-based science as the foundation of information. Offering hands-on experiences where participants are involved in the process of preserving a specified food item solidifies the knowledge learned and reinforces correct and safe food handling practices.

Farmers and producers participated in forage school, cereal school, potato school, beef school and pesticide recertification programming. These programs have helped educate and improve effectiveness of operations focusing on the latest information available from local researchers with UI Extension.

Additional highlights include offering youth financial literacy at various high schools throughout the district, as well as opportunities for improved health and wellbeing through the Fitness Made Simple program, Dementia Friends and other nutrition classes.

4-H in Jefferson County

Adult volunteers are club leaders and also help run shooting sports events, 4-H camp, day camps and some are involved as specie chairs at the fair. Leaders are also in charge of community service projects held each year. Youth volunteers are camp counselors and livestock ambassadors. This was the first year of the livestock youth ambassador program. Seven youth were involved, working directly with the fair board and serving as a liaison between the youth and fair board.

On the Horizon

The Master Food Safety Advisor program will be offered with weekly classes facilitated at the UI Extension, Jefferson County office. Following the passing of the final exam, participants volunteer 20 hours in a variety of capacities to complete the program and become certified to assist in the education of food preservation in the state of Idaho.

Cereal schools are changing format for this upcoming year. The East Idaho Cereals Conference will be held on February 5 in Fort Hall. This all day event will include specialists from the University of Idaho that focus on cereals, as well as other guest speakers to focus on topics that pertain to cereal producers. Topics include water curtailment, integrated pest management and nutrient management.