

EXTENSION TRENDS: **NEZ PERCE COUNTY**

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2024 By the Numbers

- **2,206** direct contacts
- **363** youth participants
- **70** volunteers
- **\$587,242** extramural funding

Our Advisory Council

Special thanks to our volunteers who help shape programming and inform the work we do for UI Extension in Nez Perce County: Tom Conklin, Clint Zenner, Steve Riggers, Buck Armitage, Shanna Bruun, Betty Peters, Lynn Johnson, Lisa Stoddard and Angie Beck.

UI Extension Educators



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2024 Impact

Educator Kathee Tifft worked with residents in three Idaho communities to discuss mental health concerns and developed projects addressing the stigma associated with mental health. Residents and agencies developed communication and support systems to connect individuals to mental health and resiliency services. One community designed an annual Care Fair community celebration, and another built a kiosk with an outdoor TV monitor and media box. Tifft also worked with the Idaho Farm Bureau on a video project aimed at reducing the stigma about mental health. A local multi-generational farming family shared the impact of a father's struggle with mental health, and as of November 2024, there were nearly 18,000 views of the video. Tifft provided Dementia Friends information sessions in five counties and the Nimiipuu Reservation. Participants indicated their awareness had increased about Alzheimer's and other related dementias and agreed to get in touch and stay in touch with someone they know living with dementia. In 2024, she obtained \$229,836 in external funding.

Administrative Associate Shawna Hobson taught classes on fermentation and dehydration including sauerkraut preparation and added applesauce canning, salsa canning and Dutch oven classes in 2024. She tested 70 pressure canners and responded to 525 clients with questions about safe food preservation. She taught classes for the Lewiston Library's youth program, Asotin County 4-H youth activity camp and the UI Extension, Nimiipuu Reservation program.

Area Educator Doug Finkelburg co-authored one peer-reviewed publication, gave 25 presentations and facilitated 10 activities reaching 1,256 direct contacts. He served on 11 university and professional committees and led the outreach and education committee of the Pacific Northwest Herbicide Resistance Initiative. He continues to serve as the outreach and education lead for the Innovative Agricultural Marketing Partnership (IAMP) grant. In 2024, he obtained \$357,406 in external funding.

Horticulture Associate Danielle Evans partnered with three Washington Extension offices to provide Beginning Master Gardener training in the Lewiston area. She taught several horticulture classes, participated in community health fairs, and coordinated the seasonal diagnostic plant clinics provided to the public.

4-H in Nez Perce County

4-H Coordinator Mary Kate Myers led a program with 363 youth participants, including 30 Cloverbuds, who enrolled in 503 projects. 70 4-H leaders provided direction and guidance for 23 active 4-H clubs whose members completed and exhibited 439 projects at the 2024 Nez Perce County Fair. North central Idaho 4-H educators and coordinators are working together to improve delivery and evaluation of shared programming including Youth Livestock Field Days, Super Saturday Leader Training and CL2N&I Summer Camp.

On the Horizon

Tifft will work with the Western Community Assessment Network to provide an online course, Community Projects Accelerator, for teams of community members who want to identify, develop and implement a project benefiting their community. She will partner with the Lewiston Library on informed decision-making and pre-planning classes related to healthy aging and wellbeing including home modification, transferring non-titled assets and community walking programs. She will continue to participate on the Healthy Aging Team and Poverty Competency Task Force.

Finkelburg will emphasize crop rotation and diversification strategies to minimize risks and maximize cash crop production. He will collaborate with soil and water conservation districts to evaluate post-harvest weed seed control strategies, the effectiveness of nitrogen stabilizers in high rainfall cropping systems and host events for crop producers and agricultural professionals while supporting Master Gardener education efforts and ISDA pesticide license recertification events.