

EXTENSION TRENDS: **OWYHEE COUNTY**

University of Idaho Extension, Owyhee County • www.uidaho.edu/owyhee



2024 By the Numbers

- **6,317** direct contacts
- **2,340** youth participants
- **70** volunteers
- **824** volunteer hours
- **\$20,000** extramural funding

Our Advisory Council

Special thanks to our volunteers who help shape programming and inform the work we do for UI Extension in Owyhee County: Scott Bunderson, Amy Carson, David Carson, Deidre Erwin, Melanie Harper, Jerry Hoagland, Rex Hoagland, Mary Huff, Sharla Jensen, Ginger Loucks, Hannah Mamer, Brad McIntyre, Joe Merrick, Cindy Bachman, Janet Miller, Ken Price, Doug Rutan, Norm Stewart, Jolyn Thompson and Hailee Tilton.

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2024 Impact

The UI Extension, Owyhee County Master Food Safety Advisor program retained and educated 16 volunteers with ongoing training. More than 522 hours were donated to the program, valued at more than \$15,722.64 reaching consumers with food safety education. These experiences contribute to food quality, food safety and preservation education for clientele. Expanding Extension's outreach to consumers includes food preservation and food handling practices that contribute to healthier individuals and families. The Owyhee County Master Food Safety Advisors led 221 adult participants through 16 hands-on food preservation classes in 2024.

More than 20 individuals completed artificial insemination training in the Treasure Valley, including participants who were from outside of Idaho. Many students have an interest in beef cattle and artificial insemination will give them access to the best genetics available around the world. It also provides cost savings of up to \$75/ insemination versus hiring a technician to do the arm service. The wage for an inseminator on a dairy is typically 25-30% higher than that of milkers and general dairy laborers.

4-H in Owyhee County

UI Extension, Owyhee County 4-H recruited and trained six new certified 4-H volunteers. In addition, 41 certified 4-H volunteers were retained from previous years of service. A total of 303 youth were enrolled in Owyhee County 4-H with market swine and market sheep projects continuing to lead in enrollment numbers, followed closely by Cloverbuds. 4-H members participated in leatherwork, baking and cake decorating, sewing and quilting, shooting sports, breeding livestock, small animals, cooking, photography, Know Your Government, gardening, and woodworking projects. Shooting sports, communications and expressive arts project area enrollments and exhibit numbers continue to be on the rise. Market livestock animal projects continue to be the most enrolled project, leading to the Owyhee County Junior Livestock Sale, which totaled almost \$580,000 (before add-ons).

On the Horizon

Get the Dish!: A Virtual Cooking Series began in 2023 with partners from Extension in Idaho, Georgia, Tennessee, North Carolina, and now Colorado, continues on. Adults are educated regarding food-focused preparation and safety content. Based on the continued success and interest of this program, the team will continue implementation in 2025, with classes being designed and team members growing.

Work continues on a range project using dormant season grazing to reduce fine fuels and fire risk.

Continued implementation 4-H Friday day camps will take place in the 2024-25 4-H year.