

EXTENSION TRENDS: **BANNOCK COUNTY**

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2023 By the Numbers

- **17,303** direct contacts
- **3,692** youth participants
- **42** volunteers
- **760** volunteer hours
- **\$16,000** extramural funding

Our Advisory Council

Special thanks to our volunteers who help shape programming and inform the work we do for UI Extension in Bannock County: Norm Rademacher, Evelyn Hitchcock, Curtis Austin and John McNabb.

UI Extension Educators



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2023 Impact

Educator Reed Findlay published an economic threshold for thrips in alfalfa crops. Other research included use of non-dormant alfalfa as a nitrogen source for small grain crops, dryland soil moisture study, use of forage cereal crops, vertical gardening and crop fertility studies. Successful programs included farm management, succession planning, economic outlook seminars, pesticide recertification seminars, Master Gardener classes and crop field days.

Eat Smart Idaho continues to expand its reach by establishing new partnerships in the community. The policy, systems and environmental projects are now in all the qualifying schools in Pocatello. The UI Extension, Bannock County gleaning project brought in over 350 pounds of fresh produce in a two-month period and was donated to four local food pantries. The Edible Garden Tour brought together over 140 people, with 50% of those who registered unfamiliar with UI Extension. The fermentation club met monthly and reviewed preservation techniques and nutritional benefits of fermented food. The UI Extension, Bannock County Blender Bike was taken to over 10 events including the Senior Center, Lunch in the Park and Healthy City USA! events.

Educator Nikola Ennis managed ARPA funding received last year and was able to hire a full-time staff member for the duration of the grant, which ended in September. The grant allowed UI Extension, Bannock County to grow the 4-H program, including outreach into almost all schools in School District 25 and all schools in the Marsh Valley School District. More than 3,000 additional youth were reached due to the ARPA grant funding.

4-H in Bannock County

Animal Science Day Camps were highly attended and very useful for youth attendees. Anecdotal evidence that the day camps were successful came in the form of record books submitted prior to the fair that included stories about what the youth had learned at camp and how much fun they had. The overnight 4-H camp was also well attended and a huge success. Another success was reaching the homeschool group in Bannock County and successfully teaching a dissection lab for them over four weeks. Overall, the 4-H year was very successful, with the Bannock County Fair and continuing support of the 21st Century Grant in Pocatello reaching afterschool programs.

Kids in the Kitchen monthly virtual cooking class continue to be a great success. Educator Kathryn Hickok teams up with the UI Extension, Twin Falls County educator to teach youth how to cook and use tools while preparing nutritious meals for their families.

On the Horizon

The 2024 crop year will be the second year of the non-dormant alfalfa cereal grain crop rotation study. The nitrogen response to an annual alfalfa crop will be evaluated in 2024. This will be very important to assist grain growers in lowering input costs, especially in the area of expensive nitrogen fertilizers. Findlay will also assist with a grazing study in 2024.

There is a subset of Idahoans who do not have regular access to kitchens, so in 2024 Hickok will be assembling nutritious recipes that utilize food pantry staples that do not require cooking. She will also be submitting a publication on the nutritious fermented beverage Beet Kvass.

The 4-H team will continue to expand program reach and improve the spring and summer day camps. The team will also expand reach through social media on Facebook and Instagram.