

EXTENSION TRENDS: **IDAHO COUNTY**

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



2023 By the Numbers

- **10,845** direct contacts
- **906** youth participants
- **144** volunteers
- **6,640** volunteer hours
- **\$14,482** extramural funding

Our Advisory Council

Special thanks to our volunteers who help shape programming and inform the work we do for UI Extension in Idaho County: Agriculture Advisory Board: Helen Rowland, Gary Crea, Tia Schumacher, James Boggan, Julia McCarthy, Sarah Park, Rick Turner, Ron Van Buren and Casey Cochran; 4-H Advisory Board: Tesse Pineda, Heather Kestner, Leslie McIntire and Sarah Walters; Healthy Lifestyle Advisory Board: Katrena Hauger, Andrea Solberg, Dustin Elliot, Eve McColloch, Lance McColloch, Kristi Brooks and Teri Wassmuth.

UI Extension Educator



Kirstin Jensen
208-983-2667
kdjensen@uidaho.edu



Meranda Small
208-983-2667
msmall@uidaho.edu

2023 Impact

Educator Meranda Small organized and hosted regional Beef Schools in Lewiston, Cottonwood and Sandpoint, which also included beef quality assurance training and certification. Quality assurance education was provided to youth participating in livestock projects during 2023 4-H Field Days. The Three Rivers Grazing Conference was hosted in partnership with UI Extension, Lewis County with support from local soil conservation districts after a two-year hiatus. The Idaho Young Cattle Producer Conference completed its seventh year with 18 producers attending. Small contributed to the organization and hosting of a National Cattlemen's Beef Association Stockman and Stewardship event.

Educator Kirstin Jensen and co-authors presented the Five for Five physical activity curriculum to local school districts, UI Extension educators, U of I students, Idaho Department of Education's Career Technical Education conferences, two national conferences, and the UI Extension Advisory Board and leadership team. Jensen offered six Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) courses, certifying 80 adult participants, was certified in MHFA for youth, and co-presented on MHFA at two national conferences. She also planned and conducted six healthy lifestyle events for PICH Extreme Adventure Club, including the first-annual 208 Kids Triathlon reaching 145 participants. Jensen also partnered with fellow educators to facilitate four Dementia Friends information sessions.

A canning class was offered in the fall featuring salsa and sauerkraut in partnership with the Grangeville Elks Lodge. Participants from the surrounding community were given information on water bath canning safety plus tips and tricks.

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 2023, with over 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 designed 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. Fifteen teens participated in 2023. In addition to overnight camp, two separate 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 249 youth.

On the Horizon

Continued distribution and presentation of the Five for Five curriculum is taking place, including designing a website. MHFA for Youth classes will be offered to afterschool programs. BQA content will be updated in 2024, incorporating audit results from 2022. Small is working with a team to deliver Beginning Rancher Development programming as well as involved with neighboring institutions to provide Secure Beef Supply programming. Victory Garden classes will be offered starting in February 2024. This six-week class will cover a variety of topics such as soil preparation, gardening techniques, common pests, weed control, pollinators and beneficial insects, harvest and storage, and seed saving.