

EXTENSION TRENDS: **LEWIS COUNTY**

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2023 By the Numbers

- **7,979** direct contacts
- **195** youth participants
- **41** volunteers
- **3,380** volunteer hours
- **\$10,500** extramural funding

Our Advisory Council

Special thanks to our volunteers who help shape programming and inform the work we do for UI Extension in Lewis County: Justin McLeod, Cole Riggers, Tara Cloninger, Shandrie Stigum, Greg Johnson and Eric Hasselstrom.

2023 Impact

Crop programs provided by UI Extension, Lewis County help farmers receive annual information on variety trials and other crop research through cereal schools, crop tours and educational certification for pesticide applicator's licensing. This year saw a large increase in the number of local farmers who participated in the 2023 Greencreek Cereal School. In partnership with the Idaho Wheat Commission and the Idaho Barley Commission, University of Idaho educators and industry partners gave participants updates on local crop and chemical trials, best management practices for area weeds, and the Innovative Agriculture and Marketing Partnership that highlights climate-smart ag practices. Nearly 75 local producers were in attendance.

Additionally, the annual Area Crop and Conservation Tour was held which included stops at winter canola, winter wheat, spring barley and pea varieties on the Camas Prairie. Thanks to a strong partnership with Lewis County companies, the tour was free for the 25 participants in attendance.

4-H in Lewis County

4-H participation is a long-standing tradition for many generations of Lewis County residents. Nearly half of all eligible youth participate in 4-H, with 195 members enrolling in 2023. The 4-H program also serves as a good precursor for youth to join one of the county's FFA chapters when they meet age eligibility. Lewis County staff and leaders hosted multiple opportunities for members to engage in new curricula and learn new skills. Topics included cookie and cake decorating, art, robotics, dance, vet science, beekeeping, youth leadership development, and more. In addition, 180 youth participated in the CL2N 4-H Camp at Camp Sanders, and 255 youth attended the North Central Idaho Farm and Forest Fair.

On the Horizon

UI Extension, Lewis County has a variety of offerings planned for the upcoming year that include both new and existing events covering topics such as utilizing climate-smart ag practices, farm business management and succession, regenerative agriculture, forestry, exploring new curriculum in 4-H youth development, and more. Lewis County will also offer the long-standing Prairie Area Crop and Conservation Tour and Cereal School next year.

Additionally, Lewis County is excited to advertise for and hire a new Extension Educator in the coming year. Previous educator, Audra Cochran, took an Extension position in a neighboring county.