

EXTENSION TRENDS

2024



Practical education you can trust.

University of Idaho
Extension



A Message from the Director

University of Idaho Extension had another great year in 2024. We made outstanding progress in our goal of being leaders in building a thriving, prosperous, healthy Idaho. We remained true to our mission of helping people solve problems, develop skills and build a better future. Our faculty and staff logged **450,103 direct face-to-face interactions** as they assisted individuals, businesses and communities in learning how to efficiently and effectively improve their lives while preserving our beautiful state of Idaho.

Agriculture continues to be front and center in the work of UI Extension. Our faculty and staff have worked on projects that will **improve the profitability of Idaho farmers and ranchers while preserving our natural resources**. Over the past two years, we have received funding from the Idaho State Legislature to hire an irrigation specialist, a forage specialist, an air quality specialist and a forest operations and production manufacturing Extension specialist. The newly hired director of the Idaho Water Resources Research Institute is now an Extension specialist. An entomologist at the Parma Research and Extension Center and a specialist at the Sandpoint Organic Agriculture Center will contribute greatly to the needs of the people of Idaho. While we have hired several Extension specialists, county faculty positions have not been neglected. We have also hired agriculture or natural resources positions in Boundary, Benewah, Nez Perce, Owyhee, Elmore, Lincoln, Cassia and Power counties. A family and consumer sciences educator was hired in Jefferson County. We are expecting outstanding work from these new hires and look forward to a bright future with their contributions.

As a result of efforts by Extension Specialist Paul Lewin, U of I became the **new home for the Western Rural Development Center**. Created in 1972, the Western Rural Development Center is one of four centers nationwide. It has previously been housed at Oregon State University and Utah State University. This is the first federally funded center to be housed at U of I. From offices at the Idaho Water Center in Boise, Lewin will direct research and Extension programming addressing rural issues in the western states.

Historically, UI Extension has had a reputation for providing research-based information through fact sheets, bulletins and articles in local media as well as through face-to-face classes. In 2024, faculty and staff authored **199 peer reviewed publications and journal articles**. In this century, we are now delivering information through electronic means in addition to providing face-to-face classes and publications. Our publications can be accessed online, and you can view recorded webinars. We are now offering online short courses, and our bulletins will soon be available to listed to through podcasts. We are excited to provide outstanding beneficial information you can listen to while you are on your commute, driving the tractor, or participating in other activities that do not require your undivided attention.

I have completed 10 years serving as the director of University of Idaho Extension. I love my job and greatly enjoy serving the people of Idaho. It is a joy to work with you to **build a thriving, prosperous, healthy Idaho**.



Barbara Petty

Director, University of Idaho Extension

UI Extension

BY THE NUMBERS

450,103

direct face-to-face **teaching contacts**.

979

pesticide applicators met Idaho state licensing requirements through the accredited **Pesticide Safety Recertification** online series.

350

beginning master gardeners from **18** counties participated in online courses.

2,599

Idaho Food Handler's Certificates were distributed to high school students taking the **Ready, Set, Food Safe** curriculum.

53,229

views of **3 mental health awareness** videos created through a partnership with the Idaho Farm Bureau Federation.

269

community partners delivered **Eat Smart Idaho** programming, resulting in **\$11.62** in economic benefits for every dollar spent to administer the program.

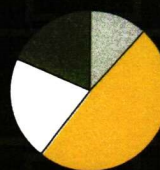
403

in-person digital skills trainings were facilitated by the **Digital Economy Program**.

75,000+

participants in **4-H youth programming**.

FUNDING BREAKDOWN



Federal:	\$3,162,585
State:	\$15,247,122
County:	\$6,342,242
Grants:	\$11,057,341

2024 EXTENSION FACTS

450,103 Direct Teaching Contacts

135 UI Extension Faculty

683,161 Web Page Views

199 Peer-reviewed Publications and Professional Journal Articles

75k+ Idaho Youth in 4-H

UI EXTENSION ADVISORY COUNCIL

- Frank Morado
- Daren Bitter
- Bill Lewis
- Chris Goetz
- Scott Claiborn
- Bill Butticci
- Krista Huettig
- Allison Bischoff
- Lori Harrison
- Arnold Callison
- Maria Gonzalez Cardenas
- Stephanie Etter
- Laurie Lickley
- Lori McCann

EXTENSION TRENDS: **VALLEY COUNTY**

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



2024 By the Numbers

- 3,101 direct contacts
- 1,851 youth participants
- 73 volunteers
- 1,956 volunteers hours
- \$3,522 extramural funding

Our Advisory Council

Special thanks to our volunteers who help shape programming and inform the work we do for UI Extension in Valley County: Sandy Dingman, Steve Anderson, Shauna Arnold, Delta James, Sherry Maupin, Karla Eitel and Lindsey Harris.

UI Extension Educator



Melissa Hamilton
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2024 Impact

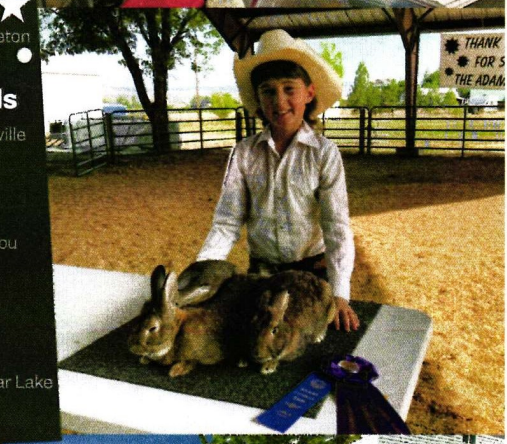
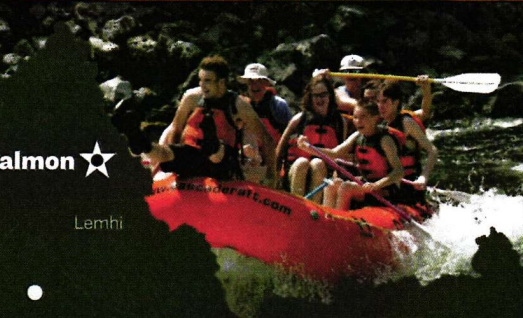
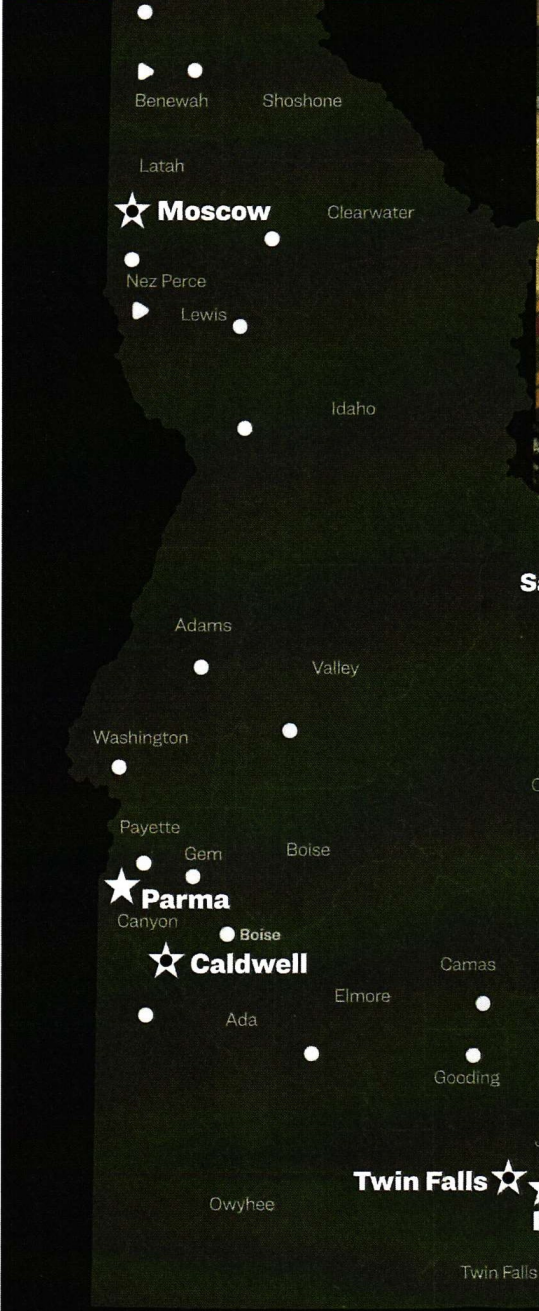
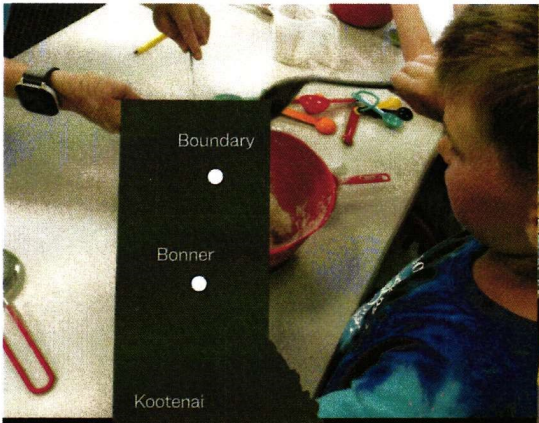
Educator Melissa Hamilton taught 22 classes, facilitated 46 meetings/ events and provided leadership for five community collaborations, focusing on community development, horticulture and agricultural education. For the Bienvenidos and Pride of the Pantry Plots Community Gardens, Hamilton organized volunteer workdays, expanded garden infrastructure and collaborated with Alzar School students for service days and co-taught youth garden art programs with UI Extension summer intern Emma Brulotte. She led the Cascade Placemaking committee for the Cascade Arts Walk, raising \$2,500 for public art. She partnered with the Cascade Cultural Arts Center for promotional events and facilitated placemaking committee meetings. For the WCM Food Coalition, she organized a volunteer committee to host a farm-to-table dinner, farmer outreach workshop and a podcast series. These efforts boosted local farmers' visibility and strengthened connections between producers and consumers. In partnership with the WCM Economic Development Council, the WCM Creative District committee participated in a UI Extension community development bootcamp and Hamilton facilitated monthly meetings. Multiple committee efforts including a community art swap and regional artisan tour were implemented. Valley, Bonneville, Blaine and Teton counties partnered to offer the first high-altitude hybrid Master Gardener series.

4-H in Valley County

4-H Coordinator Alysson Statz published an Impact Statement highlighting achievements from the 2022-23 ARPA grant cycle, which allocated \$80,000 to Valley County 4-H. Volunteer participation grew by 15%, reflecting improvements in training and recruitment. Valley County funded a full-time 4-H assistant to enhance youth development efforts. In this role, Alea Bunker has advanced livestock and horse programs with emphasis on education in animal husbandry. She partnered with Donnelly Elementary, Cascade Afterschool Programs and the Cascade Cultural Arts Center to provide year-round STEM and educational programming. Funding for Amy Ruiz, 4-H AmeriCorps, was secured primarily through community financial support. She expanded STEM and youth education initiatives by collaborating with McCall Schools, local libraries and the West Mountain Youth Advocacy Coalition. Bunker and Ruiz have broadened the reach of the Cloverbud program and introduced several new classes.

On the Horizon

Community capacity building, including leadership roles in community gardens, placemaking, school partnerships and the development of the arts sector will continue to be a focus. Local gardeners and small-scale agricultural producers will be supported through Victory Garden, Master Gardener and Cultivating Success classes and food coalition efforts. Extension will also offer local businesses facilitation services and Real Colors personality assessments to enhance team development and soft skills. Opportunities to collaborate with Boise State University and Valley County on resiliency and natural resource planning efforts are being explored. The 4-H program will prioritize maintaining programming while enhancing its volunteer program, focusing on expanding volunteer orientations and implementing strategies to ensure a stronger, safer and more effective program delivery in line with Idaho 4-H state requirements. The UI Extension, Valley County team—Melissa Hamilton, Alysson Statz, Alea Bunker, Amy Ruiz and Jill Casal—all play a critical role in serving the community. In 2025, in collaboration with the UI Extension, Valley County Advisory Board, a community survey will be created to assess local needs and determine how UI Extension can best support the region through education, 4-H youth programming and community development capacity building.



UNIVERSITY OF IDAHO EXTENSION ON THE MAP

- UI Extension County Office
- ▶ Federally-Recognized Tribes Extension Office
- ★ UI Research & Extension Center
- ★ UI Extension County Office and UI Research & Extension Center

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