

impact

University of Idaho Extension
programs that are making a
difference in Idaho.

Strengthening pasture management knowledge through regional collaboration

AT A GLANCE

Regional partnership equipped 73 small-acreage landowners with practical pasture management skills that increased knowledge, confidence and planned practice adoption.

The Situation

Southwest Idaho's growing number of small-acreage landowners has increased demand for practical, research-based pasture management education. Many landowners are new to managing pastures, forage and livestock, and need guidance on soil health, irrigation, weed control, grazing management, forage production and livestock nutrition. These management decisions are closely connected and can directly affect pasture productivity, input costs, livestock performance and natural resource stewardship. Recognizing that these challenges require expertise across multiple disciplines, University of Idaho Extension identified a need for collaborative, hands-on education that connects landowners with Extension educators, conservation professionals, local ranchers and other regional resources.

Our Response

In 2025, UI Extension led a collaborative effort with Payette Land Trust, Gem Soil and Water Conservation District, local stakeholders and funding from a Western SARE (Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education) mini grant to develop and deliver a regional Pasture Clinic series. This partnership leveraged the unique expertise of each organization to provide



Irrigation specialist Emily Bedwell teaches irrigation management at the Pasture Clinic. Photo by Jemila Chellappa.

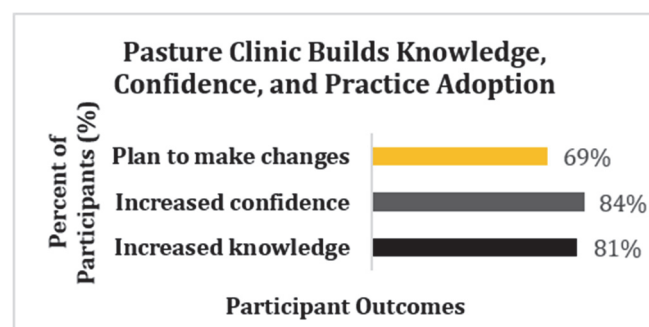
practical, research-based education focused on sustainable pasture and livestock management. Local knowledge and expertise were highlighted during the program from regional ranchers throughout the district. To maximize accessibility, the program included one live Zoom workshop followed by three in-person field clinics held in McCall, Cascade and Emmett. Participants learned through classroom instruction, field demonstrations and interactive discussions covering pasture establishment, soil health, irrigation management, weed identification and control, grazing management and livestock nutrition. The series reached 73 participants, including 35 participants through the online workshop and 38 participants through the three in-person clinics (11 in McCall, 11 in Cascade and 16 in Emmett). The collaborative approach strengthened

local partnerships while expanding the educational resources available to small-acreage owners across southwest Idaho.

Program Outcomes

Evaluations were completed by 32 of the 38 in-person participants, representing an 84% response rate. The Pasture Clinic series increased participants' knowledge, confidence and intention to adopt improved pasture management practices. Eighty-one percent reported increased knowledge, 84% felt more confident implementing practices they learned and 69% planned to make changes to their pasture or livestock management. Participants estimated that improved management decisions could result in up to \$5,000 in increased profits annually.

Table 1. Participant-reported outcomes following the 2025 Pasture Clinic series.



Participant feedback reinforced these findings. One attendee described the workshop as providing "great information on the basics of pasture management," while another appreciated the opportunity for personalized learning, noting they "enjoyed the one-on-one" interaction with presenters. Participants also requested additional education on regenerative grazing, weed management, dryland pasture management, and tours of local operations, demonstrating continued interest in Extension programming.

The Future

University of Idaho Extension and its partners will continue building on this collaborative model by expanding practical, research-based pasture education and responding to participant needs. Continued interest led to a follow-up clinic in Valley County in May 2026, reaching 22 additional participants, with future programming addressing requested topics such as regenerative grazing, weed management and dryland pasture management to support the long-term sustainability of Idaho's small-acreage communities.

Cooperators and Co-Sponsors

The Pasture Clinic series was supported by University of Idaho Extension, Payette Land Trust, Gem Soil and Water Conservation District, and sponsored through the Western SARE Professional Development (Idaho Mini-Grant).

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Cheyenne Fisher, Extension Educator • University of Idaho Extension, Gem/Boise County • 208-365-6363 • cheyannem@uidaho.edu
Jemila Chellappa, Area Extension Educator • University of Idaho Extension, Canyon County • 208-832-8796 • jemila@uidaho.edu
Melissa B. Hamilton, Extension Educator • University of Idaho Extension, Valley County • 208-382-7190 • mbhamilton@uidaho.edu
Jenn Smith, Extension Educator • University of Idaho Extension, Owyhee County • 208-896-4104 • jennsmith@uidaho.edu
Tyler O'Donnell, Extension Educator • University of Idaho Extension, Washington County • 208-414-0415 • tylero@uidaho.edu
Emily Bedwell, Extension Specialist • U of I Kimberly Research and Extension Center • 208-423-6620 • ebedwell@uidaho.edu
Karie Boone, Stewardship Manager • Payette Land Trust • 208-849-3138 • karieboone@payettelandtrust.org
Sonya Mapp, Community Outreach and Program Manager • Payette Land Trust • 208-634-4999 • sonyamapp@payettelandtrust.org
Leanne Buck, Admin Asst/I&E Officer • Gem Soil and Water Conservation District • 208-963-4693 • leanne.buck@id.nacdn.net

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