

EXTENSION TRENDS: **OWYHEE COUNTY**

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



2025 By the Numbers

- **6,309** direct contacts
- **3,336** youth participants
- **61** volunteers
- **431** volunteer hours
- **\$6,497** extramural funding

Our Advisory Council

Special thanks to our volunteers who help shape programming and inform the work we do for UI Extension in Owyhee County: Jim Desmond, Cindy Bachman, Walt Holton, Lath Callaway, Janet Miller, Norm Stewart, Matea Jaca, Anna Ousley, Amy Carson, Melanie Harper, Kelly Aberasturi, Katie Showalter, Sharla Jensen, Gina Showalter and Jerry Hoagland.

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2025 Impact

Livestock and range programs strengthened agriculture and youth education in 2025. Annual beef and swine events promoted hands-on, science-based learning. Virtual fencing research and outreach advanced precision grazing, aiding wildfire recovery and rangeland health. Combined with the pasture management series, these efforts enhanced producer knowledge, supported sustainability and empowered youth –building resilience and economic vitality for the county’s agricultural community.

The Owyhee County Master Food Safety Advisor program retained and educated 15 volunteers who donated over 491 hours, valued at more than \$15,970. These volunteers reached consumers with food safety education, contributing to food quality and preservation content for healthier individuals and families. These volunteers led 183 adults through 11 hands-on food preservation classes.

The Owyhee Health Coalition celebrated the Fitness Court ribbon cutting, marking a milestone in providing access to free, public wellness resources. This collaborative effort reflects building a healthier, more active community for all residents. By investing in spaces that promote physical activity and connection, a stronger, more vibrant Owyhee County will move forward. An eight-week fitness series was hosted at the court, encouraging clientele to access the space and learn its uses through guided station rotations.

4-H in Owyhee County

UI Extension 4-H has strengthened youth engagement through hands-on learning, supportive relationships with caring adults and programs that allow youth to build confidence and discover new sparks. 4-H day camps increased opportunities over previous years. These workshops also offered partnerships with local businesses and volunteers, increasing program reach and support. As a result, there is new interest in project areas such as cake decorating, shooting sports, fishing and leathermaking. Additionally, increased attention on educational needs provided a swine-specific 4-H Field Day to improve project outcomes, reducing underweight animals at fair and supporting youth competency in nutrition and housing. A showmanship clinic highlighting beef, swine, sheep and goats was also offered. Youth are gaining practical skills, forming friendships and finding a sense of belonging –demonstrating the continued value of 4-H as a place where young people thrive in Owyhee County.

On the Horizon

A Spring Break Day Camp Series will be offered with the chance to explore new topics. These hands-on sessions –ranging from robotics to cooking and soil science –give youth opportunities to build skills, work together and discover what excites them. The new Virtual Fence education program introduces cutting-edge technology to improve livestock management and sustainability in Owyhee County. A pasture management series offered in multiple counties has launched to strengthen small acreage owners’ knowledge and practices. The Field Days team has adjusted the format of youth 4-H field days to provide more hands-on, student-driven learning in smaller, focused groups, ensuring safety and deeper engagement. Based on need and request, hands-on and virtual food safety, food handling and food preservation classes will continue to be offered in 2026. They will continue to provide timely education that allows clientele to experience new content, build skills and gain confidence that will lead to better food budget management, healthier food choices and safe food practices.