

# EXTENSION TRENDS: **MINIDOKA COUNTY**

University of Idaho Extension, Minidoka County • [www.uidaho.edu/minidoka](http://www.uidaho.edu/minidoka)



## 2025 By the Numbers

- **3,534** direct contacts
- **2,762** youth participants
- **117** volunteers
- **7,020** volunteer hours
- **\$35,854** extramural funding

## Our Advisory Council

Special thanks to our volunteers who help shape programming and inform the work we do for UI Extension in Minidoka County: Tiffany Grischkowsky, Jerry Pfeiffer, Suzy Sorenson, Justin Studer, Tawnya Tracy, Adrian Vergara, Salvador Moreno, Jeff Miller, Doug Hansen, Brian Kossman and Lanae Nalder.

## UI Extension Educators



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## 2025 Impact

UI Extension, Minidoka County delivered 15 agriculture-specific presentations and reached 3,511 individuals in 2025. Insect identification services saved producers nearly \$4,000 by preventing unnecessary pesticide applications. A new publication, "A Potato's Journey," was published to address local advisory concerns regarding agricultural literacy while connecting youth directly to the county's primary crop. Over \$700,000 in external funding was secured to develop future livestock and pest management resources. New Extension Educator Annie Nelsen has focused on establishing a sustainable family and consumer sciences program for Minidoka County. She prioritized community needs assessment by networking with county commissioners, local libraries and service providers. To address rural isolation, she developed and taught a course on crocheting basics. Additionally, she engaged in professional development regarding food preservation and scholarly activities, including reviewing Extension publications and co-authoring an educational video.

## 4-H in Minidoka County

UI Extension 4-H programs continued to grow strong youth leaders in Minidoka County and expanded high-quality programs across the county. 4-H Teen Association members demonstrated outstanding leadership by teaching youth classes, serving as camp counselors at overnight and day camps, and representing Idaho on state and national committees. This year, the Teen Association also hosted eight delegates from Texas through a long-standing State-to-State Exchange, a tradition maintained since 1997. Visitors explored Idaho agriculture, toured local sites and especially enjoyed learning about the potato industry. The shooting sports program saw major growth in rifle, pistol and archery. The Minidoka Mountain Makers 4-H Club received an NRA grant to purchase additional equipment, became Civilian Marksmanship Program affiliates, and partnered with the City of Rupert Shooting Complex to increase youth opportunities. The LEGO Ag Robotics program also had a successful season with 10 participants, strengthened by a grant that provided four additional SPIKE Essential and Expansion LEGO kits, allowing the opportunity to grow more teams in the future.

## On the Horizon

Educator Jason Thomas is eager to launch "Pest Friends Jr." to expand integrated pest management education and to enhance the Insect ID website capabilities for local growers. Additionally, Thomas will lead statewide artificial intelligence training, ensuring Minidoka producers can leverage these cost-effective tools for operational efficiency. The 4-H program is excited to offer monthly Cloverbud classes led by members of the 4-H Teen Association. These two-hour sessions will feature STEAM-based learning with activities, crafts, games and snacks tied to a 4-H project theme. Open to all youth ages 5-7, these classes give younger children a fun hands-on introduction to 4-H while providing meaningful leadership experience for the teens who research, plan and teach each lesson. This program will strengthen the 4-H pipeline, build skills and grow countywide 4-H membership. Nelsen plans to hold more crochet classes, canning, diet focused education and she and Thomas will work on a new board game to teach youth and adults about proper diet.