

EXTENSION TRENDS: **CANYON COUNTY**

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2025 By the Numbers

- **22,171** direct contacts
- **13,044** youth participants
- **377** volunteers
- **6,405** volunteer hours
- **\$428,089** extramural funding

Our Advisory Council

Special thanks to our volunteers who help shape programming and inform the work we do for UI Extension in Canyon County: Brad McIntyre, Julie Eldredge and Maria Held.

UI Extension Educators



Tasha Howard
208-459-6003
thoward@uidaho.edu



Jemila Chellappa
208-459-6003
jemila@uidaho.edu



Carrie Clarich
208-459-6003
carriej@uidaho.edu



Cheyenne Myers
208-459-6003
cheyannem@uidaho.edu



Brad Stokes
208-459-6003
bstokes@uidaho.edu

2025 Impact

Pasture soil health field days equipped producers with practical diagnostics such as slake tests, infiltration, and texture-by-feel along with clear guidance on fertility management, grazing timing, and soil monitoring. The expansion of the Growing Degree Day (GDD) Calculator within the PNW Pest Alert Network strengthened decision-making by improving pest and crop timing accuracy, supporting reduced pesticide use while maintaining yield and profitability.

Master Gardeners helped build two pollinator gardens in Canyon County, one in partnership with the City of Nampa (West Park) and one at the U of I Parma Research and Extension Center. Nearly 10,000 square feet of pollinator habitat and plants were planted during 2025.

Small-acreage landowners and livestock producers were supported through hands-on, science-based education. Programs such as Living on the Land and the Pasture Clinic provided practical skills in pasture management, soil health, and sustainable land stewardship, enabling participants to apply best practices directly to their properties. Livestock education focused on beef cattle nutrition improved producers' understanding of nutrient requirements, forage quality, and cost-effective feeding strategies.

4-H in Canyon County

UI Extension, Canyon County offers traditional 4-H programming as well as a series of spring and summer 4-H day camps, Short Term Enrollment Programs (STEP), in-school, afterschool programs, and community events. With over 578 youth members in 40 clubs, Canyon County 4-H is home to one of the largest 4-H community club programs in Idaho. Youth participate in projects ranging from livestock, pets, foods and nutrition, leadership, art, shooting sports, and more. Throughout the year, 4-H Extension professionals provide outreach to in-school and afterschool programs. Enrichment programs expand opportunities and help youth explore topics and ideas they wouldn't otherwise be able to. The Junior Master Gardener program is strong in Canyon County, with the team hosting several events at libraries and community gardens throughout the year. Activities such as edible soil profiles, soil texture-by-feel, crop identification, and pollinator crafts reinforced STEM learning. Multispecies nutrition classes were held for youth raising market and breeding projects, strengthening their understanding of animal nutrient requirements, feed selection, and management practices that support animal health and performance. These classes helped youth make informed decisions and improve project outcomes.

On the Horizon

Upcoming programming includes building on the Pest Patrol project, expanding the PNW Pest Alert Network, and expanded research-based education for agricultural professionals, youth, and communities. Pest Patrol will deliver advanced IPM training to agricultural professionals while adapting key concepts into hands-on learning modules for 4-H and community audiences. The Idaho GDD Calculator will be introduced through simplified dashboards, interactive demonstrations, and field-based learning to help audiences understand how temperature drives pest pressure, crop development, and management timing. Due to the success of the Pasture Clinic, UI Extension will offer multiple clinics and expand the program into a year-long educational series. Spring and fall sessions will be designed to prepare participants for the upcoming season of pasture management, reinforcing concepts and supporting continued skill development.