

EXTENSION TRENDS: **JEROME COUNTY**

University of Idaho Extension, Jerome County • www.uidaho.edu/jerome



2025 By the Numbers

- **3,525** direct contacts
- **949** youth participants
- **47** volunteers
- **5,170** volunteer hours
- **\$10,112** extramural funding

Our Advisory Council

Special thanks to our volunteers who help shape programming and inform the work we do for UI Extension in Jerome County: Jim and Diane Meeks, Oscar Martinez, Jose Martinez, Doug Huettig, Roger Wells, Kyonna Rue, Donna Griffith, Ron Taylor, Makinzie Searle, Lydia Jackson, Mike Knutz, Eddee Gallegos, Charlie Howell, Ben Crouch, Art Wakins, Gary and Becky Warr, Brady and Tianna Fife, Kim Lickley, Janett Prescott and Eddie Reyes.

UI Extension Educators



Steven Hines
208-324-7578
shines@uidaho.edu



Gretchen Manker
208-324-7578
gretchenm@uidaho.edu

2025 Impact

Educator Steven Hines continued his work integrating cover crops into irrigated cropping systems in the Magic Valley. He completed a demonstration study comparing drilling and broadcast methods of planting cover crops into corn grown for silage. This research will help farmers integrate cover crops without having to purchase additional equipment. Hines also partnered with the Twin Falls and Snake River Soil and Water Conservation Districts to develop a cover crop demonstration. A field day was held to highlight this work with 69 people in attendance. Wind erosion is one of the biggest issues facing farmers in the Magic Valley. Planting cover crops can help reduce soil loss and improve other soil factors such as increased water absorption, holding winter snow and improving soil health.

Educator Gretchen Manker and colleagues presented Preserve the Abundance/Preservando Con Propósito La Abundancia community canning classes. Based on work in 2022, the need for bilingual food preservation classes and publications in Spanish was evident due to the high attendance of Spanish speaking participants. In 2025, 45 people attended bilingual boiling water canning classes with a lab. Participants indicated that they not only want pressure canning classes, but also the addition of jams and jelly classes. Due to this interest, the FCS team will offer six additional bilingual home food preservation classes in the Magic Valley. Manker provided classes to students in the Bridge Life Skills course at the Idaho Educational School for the Deaf and the Blind in Gooding. She also partners with the City of Jerome to provide yearly nutrition and food safety updates to city employees. This year's topics included promoting the benefits of menu planning and the essential health benefits of dietary fiber.

4-H in Jerome County

The UI Extension 4-H program welcomed 25 new families and nine new leaders in 2025. During the summer, 60 youth participated in six STEAM focused day camps. Three three-day camps were held during spring break, reaching 26 youth with topics about dinosaurs, rockets and healthy living. A leathercraft workshop was offered, with nine participants. This workshop series continues to grow each year. Funding provided by the Jerome County Commissioners allowed UI Extension to hire a summer intern to help with fair prep and youth programming. UI Extension also partnered with the Boys and Girls Club in Jerome to implement a 4-H Special Interest (SPIN) club, provide 4-H STEAM activities and facilitate a 4-H cooking club, with financial support from the St. Luke's Health System. The Dino's 4-H Club had 12 4th and 5th grade members who participated in all aspects of belonging to and running a 4-H club. They followed parliamentary procedure, elected officers, established a club name, voted on club activities, completed a community service project, and displayed their projects at the Jerome County Fair.

On the Horizon

Hines will continue his work in cover crop integration. A demonstration was previously conducted to assess growing corn for silage on wider rows. A few farmers have considered adopting the practice but have asked for guidance on the ideal plant population. A demonstration study will be conducted to assess various plant populations to help answer that question. Additionally, Hines and a team of educators are planning a small acreage class. The 4-H program will provide the leathercraft workshop series again with more youth interest. Spring and summer day camps will be provided for youth, and a Winter Carnival event will be held for the community to learn about 4-H and play some carnival games.