EXTENSION TRENDS: *BOUNDARY COUNTY*

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2024 By the Numbers

- **4,870** direct contacts
- **1,584** youth participants
- **95** volunteers
- **3,225** volunteer hours
- **$34,666** extramural funding

Our Advisory Council

Special thanks to our volunteers who help shape programming and inform the work we do for UI Extension in Boundary County: Laci Click, Kim Cushman, Tiffani Beggerly, Tim Bertling, Wally Cossairt, Shirley Anderson, Joan Poppino, Lynn Silva, Jan Bayer, Sarah Carver and Eli Pine.

UI Extension Educators

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2024 Impact

With support from UI Extension, Boundary County, volunteers from the Master Food Safety Advisor and Master Gardener programs offered more than 30 public learning opportunities throughout North Idaho. Classes covered topics including growing and using herbs, fermenting vegetables, growing fungi, outdoor Dutch oven cooking, pressure canning, and building your soil.

A total of 100 forest owners, loggers and professional foresters attended Logger Education to Advance Professionalism Update in Boundary County in 2024. Many Boundary County forest owners and loggers also attended UI Extension forestry programs held in adjacent panhandle counties. Currently, five Boundary County forest owners are certified UI Extension volunteers with the Idaho Master Forest Stewards, who provided over 750 hours of volunteer service to 1,867 forest owners and others in northern Idaho in 2023-24.

Another successful program was the continuation of virtual food safety and food preservation classes implemented in 2021. Boundary County partnered with Owyhee County to offer monthly classes on a variety of food topics. In live Zoom presentations from November 2023 through October 2024, there were 335 participants attending 13 classes.

4-H in Boundary County

A total of 219 youth participated in the traditional 4-H program in Boundary County and exhibited their projects at the 2024 County Fair. Livestock Quality Assurance Training was provided for both 4-H and FFA members exhibiting market animals.

Boundary County 4-H partnered with the school district to host a half-time AmeriCorps member who provided STEAM activities onsite at local elementary schools Monday-Thursday every week and at 4-H Friday Friends. A summer AmeriCorps member and a student intern were able to provide a wide range of learning opportunities for youth aged 5-15. Seven full-day camps, four half-day camps and 12 short-term STEAM programs were held. The TMC trailer was at the Boundary County Fair and offered hands-on learning activities all week long.

4-H Friday Friends celebrated its' 17th year of offering all-day programming for elementary-age children on Fridays during the school year. This program saw participation from community visitors including the library, sheriff's office and many others. The program received $18,000 in grants in 2024, allowing enrollment rates to stay affordable for Boundary County families.

On the Horizon

The UI Extension, Boundary County office will add a new Extension Educator in 2025 to address programming in agronomy, small farms and horticulture. This will allow for an expansion of the current programming and increased support for the farmers and ranchers in the county.

A new parenting program, Guiding Good Choices, will be offered for the first time in January and February. This program is designed for families with children in 4th-8th grade. The program will focus on building strong family relationships and teaching skills to deal with peer pressure to decrease risk-taking behaviors in teens.

The 4-H program is partnering with Master Food Safety Advisors to pilot the new 4-H Freeze Drying Curriculum developed by Extension educators in Boundary and Franklin counties. This curriculum will be submitted to UI Extension to be peer reviewed and published with a goal of being offered as a statewide project for the 2025-26 4-H year.