



EXTENSION UPDATE

UNIVERSITY OF IDAHO, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, AND IDAHO COUNTIES COOPERATING

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Farm-to-Fork News

Growing a Resilient Teton Community Food System

By Jennifer Werlin, Extension Educator in Community Food Systems

More than fifteen years ago, I joined the board of Slow Food in the Tetons. An affiliate of Slow Food, it was founded by Teton Valley’s local food champion Sue Muncaster and worked across both sides of the Tetons to promote food that is good, clean, and fair. By the time I began my role with University of Idaho Extension nearly a decade ago, Slow Food in the Tetons had transitioned to a Jackson-based nonprofit affiliate. Yet the foundation for our regional food and agriculture movement was already strong. As I approach ten years as an Extension educator in Teton Valley, I remain inspired by the collective strides Teton-area organizations, producers, and residents have made to expand awareness of and strengthen the health of our regional food landscape.



in 2016, when chefs, farmers, and community members explored farm-to-table events and a local food directory. What began as a focused effort evolved into a broader initiative coordinating food system work on both sides of Teton Pass—our shared foodshed.



In 2017, I helped facilitate the formation of the Teton Food and Farm Coalition under the leadership of University of Idaho Extension (www.tetonfoodfarmcoalition.org). Its roots trace back to grassroots gatherings

As a coalition of farmers, ranchers, small businesses, nonprofits, and engaged citizens, we understand that meaningful change requires shared effort. No single organization can address the complexity of today’s food system alone. By working together, we learn and strengthen regional partnerships and connect with similar coalitions across Idaho, Wyoming, and beyond.

Recently, a small group gathered to reflect on the coalition’s direction. We refined our mission and vision while reaffirming our core purpose: building connection,

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communication, and collaboration. Future meetings will focus on pressing regional issues, including our upcoming March 25th meeting that will focus on farmland preservation—an urgent concern in a region where rising land prices and development threaten agricultural viability.



Our discussions also emphasized that our work extends beyond the idea of “local food,” which often focuses solely on geography. We embrace a broader vision of a community-based food system—one grounded in relationships that support the social, economic, and environmental health of a place. A community food sys-

tem includes the entire network of farmers, ranchers, farm workers, distributors, retailers, chefs, food banks, and consumers who move food from field to fork.

Our rural, geographically isolated foodshed presents distinct challenges. Consumer demand for healthy, sustainably produced food is strong. However, high land costs, limited infrastructure, and short growing seasons constrain production and distribution. Economic disparity adds further complexity. The Tetons have one of the highest income gaps in the nation. While some residents can afford premium-priced products, many struggle to access nutritious, high-quality food. Beginning farmers also face significant barriers, particularly in securing affordable land.

These regional challenges mirror national trends. Over the past half-century, the U.S. food system has shifted toward large-scale, specialized, and consolidated production. Policies have favored high-volume commodity crops and processed foods. Although this model has increased efficiency and expanded variety, it has also contributed to environmental degradation, diet-related disease, and the decline of diversified family farms. The COVID-19



pandemic exposed vulnerabilities in consolidated supply chains, underscoring the need for stronger regional resilience. At the same time, farmers face growing uncertainty from extreme weather—drought, wildfire, flooding, and soil degradation—all of which threaten agricultural productivity and public health. Strengthening our regional community food system is not simply about preference; it is about resilience. Through collaboration, thoughtful engagement, and sustained community commitment, we can cultivate a Teton food system that nourishes both its people and place for generations to come.



Join the
“Teton Valley
Beekeepers Association”

Receive discounts on beekeeping classes,
opportunities to check-out equipment, network with
others, and more!

\$15 per year (Individual)
\$20 per year (Couple/Family)

Cash or check made out to:

Teton County, Idaho (Attn: Extension)
250 Courthouse Dr. #208, Driggs, Idaho 83422
jweelin@uidaho.edu | 208.254.2961

University of Idaho
Extension
Teton County

**2026 pre Spring Equinox meeting on Thursday, March 19th
7-8pm MT** online via Zoom.



Mark your calendars!

When: Mar 19, 2026 07:00 PM Mountain Time (US and Canada), via Zoom

Register in advance for this meeting:

https://uidaho.zoom.us/meeting/register/Lyvj2oz3SjKe9CvSqn_ihw

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

Agenda: Discuss springtime management and share how your winter went.

Check your bees now to see if they are alive, consider feeding them and treating them for mites. **Order bees now** if you need them.

The "False Spring" Trap: Why East Idaho's Record Warm Winter Is a Gardener's Warning

Authored by Jared Gibbons, Extension Educator, Madison County

REXBURG, ID — If you've lived in Eastern Idaho for more than a season, you know the drill: don't trust a warm Spring, but a warm winter?. As of early 2026, we are officially living through one of the warmest meteorological winters in recorded history. While it's warm enough to dust off the garden trowels and start gardening, historical data reveals a sobering truth: a warm winter does not mean an early spring.



Key Observations

- **The 2026 "Snow Drought":** As of February 2026, East Idaho is experiencing a significant "Snow Drought." While total precipitation (the amount of water falling from the sky) is actually above average at over 4 inches, the snowfall is nearly 50% below normal. A huge portion of this winter's moisture fell as rain or mixed slush.
- **The 2003 Anomaly:** The winter of 2002–2003 remains the "brownest" winter in at least Rexburg's modern memory. With only 11.7 inches of snow for the entire three-month peak, the ground was bare for long stretches, which is highly unusual for the Madison County area.
- **Liquid vs. Snow:** In a "normal" winter, 1 inch of liquid precipitation usually equals about 12–15 inches of snow. In these warm years, that ratio drops significantly. In the current 2026 season, 1 inch of

liquid is producing only about 5 inches of snow, confirming the "warm and wet" nature of the season.

What does this mean for the Summer?

Historically, these warm/dry winters in Idaho lead to a higher risk of early-season wildfires and lower reservoir levels. Even though the 2026 liquid precipitation is decent, the lack of a "frozen" snowpack means the water runs off into the Snake River too early in the spring rather than melting slowly through June.

For fruit growers and gardeners from Rexburg to American Falls, the current "record warmth" actually creates a dangerous scenario. Our plants are at risk of breaking dormancy early, leaving tender buds and sap-filled branches vulnerable to the inevitable frost that always comes for us. A warm winter does not prevent a "polar plunge" in May.

As we look across the Snake River Plain from Rexburg toward Idaho Falls, Pocatello, and American Falls, we see a consistent spike in temperature. These cities share a similar climate profile, but there are distinct differences—Pocatello and American Falls generally sit at lower elevations and enjoy slightly longer growing seasons than the Rexburg bench.

City-by-City Historical Analysis

To assess the risk, I examined the five warmest winters on record (from December 1 to the end of February) in our region. Even during the years with the highest average winter temperatures, the Last Spring Frost date still occurred later than one might expect. Below is the climate data for the five warmest winters and the subsequent spring and fall frost

patterns for these cities.

Rexburg (The High-Bench Iceberg? Not this year)- ~4,860 ft

2025–2026 Record: This ongoing season is breaking records, with December 2025 being the warmest in 85 years. Meteorological reports indicate that December 2025 was the hottest recorded since 1939, with temperatures in Rexburg reaching as high as 53°F on Christmas Day. Local weather services have officially designated this winter as the warmest since 1934, and it is likely to finish as the warmest on record.

Rank	Winter Season (Dec 1 - Feb 28)	Average Winter Temperature	Last Spring Frost	First Fall Frost	Growing Season Length	Total Precipitation (Liquid)
1	2025–2026	28.5 (Est.)	TBD	TBD	TBD	4.21" (To date)
2	1933–1934	27.9	May 23	Sept 14	114 Days	2.94"
3	1980–1981	27.5	May 28	Sept 28	123 Days	3.12"
4	1952–1953	26.2	May 21	Sept 17	119 Days	3.89"
5	2002–2003	25.8	May 28	Sept 18	112 Days	2.15"
	Historic Avg (2000–2025)	23.1	May 21	Sept 18	119	2.91"

Idaho Falls (The Wind-Swept Plain) (Elev. ~4,700 ft)

Idaho Falls closely mirrors Rexburg but is often few degrees warmer due to its slightly lower elevation and urban heat island effect. Deviation Note: Idaho Falls had a significantly wetter 1953 winter than Rexburg, recording

Rank	Winter Season (Dec 1 - Feb 28)	Average Winter Temperature	Last Spring Frost	First Fall Frost	Growing Season Length	Total Precipitation (Liquid)
1	2025–2026	29.8 Est.	TBD	TBD	TBD	4.02" (Wet)
2	1933–1934	29.1	May 20	Sept 15	118 Days	2.55"
3	1980–1981	28.2	May 25	Sept 29	127 Days	3.01"
4	1952–1953	27.5	May 15	Sept 18	126 Days	3.65"
5	2002–2003	27.2	May 28	Sept 18	113 Days	2.08" (Dry)
	Historic Avg (2000–2025)	23.9	May 19	Sept 21	125 Days	3.02"

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nearly 4 inches of liquid precipitation, much of which fell as rain.

Pocatello (The "Banana Belt") Pocatello (Elev. ~4,460 ft)

Pocatello is consistently the "banana belt" of this group. Its lower elevation and protection by the Portneuf Range often result in the last spring frost happening much earlier.

Pocatello						
Rank	Winter Season (Dec 1 - Feb 28)	Average Winter Temperature	Last Spring Frost	First Fall Frost	Growing Season Length	Total Precipitation (Liquid)
1	2025-2026	32.0 Est.	TBD	TBD	TBD	4.85" (Very Wet)
2	1933-1934	32.1	May 8	Oct 4	148 Days	3.12"
3	1980-1981	31.5	May 14	Oct 2	141 Days	3.45"
4	1952-1953	30.8	May 9	Sept 27	141 Days	4.10"
5	2002-2003	29.9	May 22	Sept 18	119 Days	2.30"
	Historic Avg (2010-2025)	28.1	May 9	Oct 5	148	3.45"

American Falls (The Reservoir Moderate) (Elev. ~4,400 ft)

American Falls is heavily influenced by the reservoir, which can act as a thermal heat sink, slightly moderating extreme cold.

Deviation Note: Unlike the other cities, American Falls saw 2014–2015 break into its top 5 warmest list, replacing 2003. This suggests that the southern part of the plain



stayed milder in the mid-2010s compared to the northern stations.

The Summary of the "Big Picture"

1. **The Record Doesn't Change the Date:** Despite being labeled as "warm," the record breaking years of 1934, 1981, and

2003 experienced later spring frosts than our current 25-year average. In Rexburg, the winter of 2003 was one of the warmest on record, yet the last frost didn't occur until May 29th—over a week later than average! Even with 2026 being "blowout" warm winter, the average last frost date across all four cities has only budged by about 2 to 3 days over the last 25 years. The area's high elevation prevents spring from arriving "early" in a biological sense.

2. **Fruit Tree Danger:** Fruit trees such as apples, cherries, and peaches require "chill hours" to remain dormant. If a winter is excessively warm, these trees may meet their chill requirements early and "wake up" during a warm spell in March. If the sap begins to flow and buds swell, then an April night with temperatures dropping to 20 degrees can kill the entire year's fruit crop or even split the bark of the tree.

3. **Growing Season Irony:** It might seem logical that a warm winter would lead to a longer summer, but in Rexburg and Idaho Falls, both 1934 and 2003 actually had shorter-than-average growing seasons. The warm winter air often gives way to erratic cold snaps in spring and fall. Among all cities, 1934 remains the only year where a warm winter reliably transitioned into an extensive growing season, particularly benefiting Pocatello. This is an oddity—don't count on it.

4. **2026 Wetness:** The current season is proving to be the wettest among all record-warm winters. While not all of the precipitation is snow, the liquid totals are nearly 40% higher than those in the warm winters of 1934 and 2003, which is good news for soil moisture levels as we head into spring.

Gardener's Action Plan for 2026

Understand the Situation

Breaking Dormancy: Most fruit trees in our region (like apples and tart cherries) require a specific number of "chill hours" (time spent between and) to break dormancy. In a record-warm winter like **2026, trees reach this requirement weeks early.**

The Sap Trap: Once the mean temperature stays consistently above freezing, trees begin moving nutrients upward. If this is followed by a typical East Idaho "Spring Plunge" (temperatures dropping back into the teens or single digits in March or April), the water in the tree's vascular system can freeze, causing the bark to split or killing the fruit buds entirely.

The "Pocatello Anomaly": Notice that Pocatello is currently averaging above freezing for



the entire winter. This is extremely rare and significantly increases the likelihood of plants "thinking" it is already April.

- **Pruning Fruit Trees:** Get out and prune now! More damage is done when buds are swelling and you take them off, that means the tree has already mobilized nutrients into the buds and that energy is now lost after the cut.
- **Mulch Heavily:** Keep the soil around your perennials and trees insulated. Thick mulch helps keep the ground frozen longer, tricking the roots into staying dormant even if the air is warm.
- **Don't Cheat the Calendar:** Regardless of how nice the weather looks in April, the "Average Last Frost" dates (May 9 to

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May 21) are grounded in decades of data. Keep your frost blankets ready.

City	2025-2026 Chill Hours	Historic Average (to Feb 10)	% of Normal	Status
Rexburg	1,120	840	133%	Full Dormancy Risk
Idaho Falls	1,215	890	138%	Full Dormancy Risk
Pocatello	1,380	1,010	139%	High Risk of Bud Burst
American Falls	1,340	960	137%	High Risk of Bud Burst

Calculated Oct 1 to Feb 10th 2026.

In fruit production:

Chill Hours are the currency of the winter. For a tree to produce fruit, it must accumulate a specific number of hours between 32° and 45° while dormant. If it doesn't get enough, it won't bloom; if it gets them too early, it "wakes up" and risks being killed by a late-spring freeze.

In this record-warm 2025–2026 winter, the "Total Chill" has been accumulated at a much faster rate than usual because we have spent more time in that "sweet spot" (32-45°) and less time in the "deep freeze" (below 32°), where chilling actually stops.

What This Means for Your Trees

Most fruit trees common to East Idaho have a chilling requirement of 800 to 1,000 hours. As you can see from the table, every city in the region has already met its full requirement for the year.

- The "Ready to Bloom" State: Your trees are now effectively "off the clock." They have finished their winter sleep and are simply waiting for a string of days above 50° to begin pushing sap and swelling buds. Which we are starting to have.
- The Vulnerability Window: Usually, we don't hit 1,000 chill hours until late February or March. By hitting it in early February, we have extended the "vulnerability window"—the time where a tree is awake but the weather is still lethal—by nearly three weeks.

Fruit Variety	Typical Chill Requirement	2026 Status
Honeycrisp Apple	800-1,000 Hours	Requirement Met
Bing/Rainier Cherry	700-800 Hours	Requirement Met
Peaches (Relia/Contender)	800-1,050 Hours	Requirement Met
Apricots	600-800 Hours	Requirement Met (DANGER)

Apricot Warning: Apricots are notorious for waking up the earliest. Because they only need ~700 hours, they have been "ready" since mid-January this year. If we get a warm week in late February, these trees will attempt to bloom, almost certainly leading to a total crop loss when the March freezes hit.

Can You Slow It Down?

To help your trees stay "asleep" as long as possible:

1. **Mulch the Base:** Apply 4–6 inches of wood chips or straw over the root zone now. This keeps the ground temperature lower for longer, delaying the signal to the roots that spring has arrived.
2. **White Trunk Paint:** If you haven't already, paint the south-facing side of young tree trunks with a 50/50 mix of white interior latex paint and water. This reflects sunlight and keeps the tree tissue from heating up on sunny winter afternoons.



IPM Webinar Series

University of Idaho Extension

The IPM Webinar Series brings together University of Idaho Extension specialists, practical management, and professional knowledge specific to Idaho conditions. The series provides education on IPM topics, including insects, resistance management, weeds, diseases, cultural controls, and post-harvest management. It supports sustainable practices for responsible crop production and is designed for growers, consultants, and agricultural professionals.

Program Agenda & Session Topics

Monday, March 9th, 12 - 1pm
Basic IPM Theory & Practices
 Effective Insect Identification and Monitoring: A Practical IPM Approach to Responsible Pesticide Use.
 Speaker: Brad Stokes

Tuesday, March 10th, 12 - 1pm
Insect Management

- Insect Identification & Monitoring – Jason Thomas
- Biological Control in Idaho Cropping Systems – Armando Falcon-Brindis
- Chemical Control: Modes of Action and Resistance Management – Marcelo Dimase

Earn 1 ISDA Credit Per Session

Wednesday, March 11th, 12 - 1pm
Cultural Control Methods
 Building Post Suppression into Cropping Systems.
 Speaker: Jemila Challappa and Xi Liang

Thursday, March 12th, 12 - 1pm
Weed Management
 Integrated Weed Management and Resistance Prevention.
 Speaker: Joel Felix and Albert Adjasiwor

Friday, March 13th, 12 - 1pm
Post-Harvest Management
 Post-Harvest Physiology and Disease Management.
 Speakers: Kasia Duellman and Gustavo Teixeira

Cost is FREE! Registration is Required. To register and receive the Zoom link, go to: bit.ly/webseriesIPM

The University of Idaho has a policy of nondiscrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, age, sexual orientation, gender identity/expression, disability, genetic information or status as any protected veteran or military status. Persons with disabilities have the right to request and receive reasonable accommodations. Please complete this form to assist in evaluating the reasonable accommodation request at least two weeks prior to the event. Accommodation applications cannot be approved without supporting documentation. Submit this electronic request form by sending the application and documentation to Center for Disability Access and Resources, 875 Perimeter Drive Moscow, ID 83844-4257. cdar@uidaho.edu Phone 208-886-6367, Fax 208-886-9424.



Join University of Idaho Extension for the

Idaho Young Cattle Producer Conference

June 22-24, 2026 | Fort Hall

- Gain in-depth information on the Idaho cattle industry and valuable tools to be successful in the cattle business.
- Open to cattle producers between the age of 18 and 40.
- Highlights include a tour of the cattle industry, meat cutting demonstration, updates on current issues facing the cattle industry, information on financing a cattle operation, how to utilize risk management tools, innovative range management practices, and endangered species issues.

To apply:

- Complete application at <https://go.uidaho.edu/ycc> by June 1
- 20 participants will be selected to attend
- Conference registration is free; participants are responsible for travel and lodging

Questions? Contact:

Meranda Small, UI Extension | 208-983-2667 or msmall@uidaho.edu
Or contact your local UI Extension office's livestock educator

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University of Idaho
Extension

YCC
YOUNG CATTLE
PRODUCER CONFERENCE



University of Idaho
College of Agricultural
and Life Sciences

2026 Cattle Production/Ranch Work (Range) Internship

The University of Idaho is seeking a student to assist Mr. Wyatt Prescott, UI-Rinker Rock Creek Ranch (RRCR) cattle manager in managing cattle grazing at RRCR and repairing and maintaining infrastructure.

The ranch is a 20,000-acre property west of Bellevue, ID managed in cooperation with The Nature Conservancy and the Wood River Land Trust and located within a 40-min drive of the Sawtooth National Recreation Area. The intern will be able to learn ranch, forage, and cattle management as well as assist with data collection days on range research projects. Students will be exposed to all research areas. There will be opportunities to learn experimental design, proper sampling techniques, sample preparation, and Extension presentation. Students will be exposed to basic ranch management and procedures. Students will be responsible for daily ranch activities and assisting with research projects including data collection, data analysis, and research summaries. This position is an exceptional opportunity to broaden a student's professional network and gain hands-on experience in the field.

Opportunities exist for interested interns to develop publications and present information for Extension clients including ranchers and agency personnel

Job Duties:

- Assist with cattle management including herding and sorting cows
- Repair and maintain ranch infrastructure including but not limited to fencing, weed control, and assisting with flood irrigation
- Participate in data collection for ongoing research projects
- Learn about ranch operations and stewardship, range forage management, and range cattle management
- Work outdoors and live in a wall tent at the ranch camp with other interns, graduate students, and faculty
- Salary is \$15/hour. This will be a full-time job, with 40-hour work weeks and holidays off. Position is 10-weeks with the opportunity to extend

Required Qualifications:

- Must be 18 years or older and graduated from high school or equivalent
- Candidate will need to be able to ride a horse and have experience herding cattle. It is preferred that the intern provides their own horse and tack. Additional horses may be available. In compensation for providing their horse, UI will cover all animal care costs including shoeing
- Desire to work in rugged conditions and spend the entirety of the internship outdoors
- Ability to pass a background check; clean driving record
- Self-starter and ability to complete a task without close supervision, willingness and ability to work outdoors in varied conditions on a working ranch
- Must be able to start within 2 weeks of the end of the spring-semester

To Apply:

- Applications will be reviewed beginning **March 9th**; open until filled.
- Send: 1) Letter of interest; 2) Resume; 3) Transcripts (unofficial okay); and 4) Names and contacts for three references to Cameron Weskamp (cpacker@uidaho.edu). For more information or answers to questions, call (208) 721-4134.

cpacker@uidaho.edu

208-721-4134



University of Idaho

Rinker Rock Creek Ranch

It is U of I policy to prohibit and eliminate discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, sexual orientation and gender identity/expression, age, disability, or status as a Vietnam-era veteran. This policy applies to all programs, services, and facilities, and includes, but is not limited to, applications, admissions, access to programs and services, and employment.



Medicare Workshop

Are you, or a loved one, nearing 65? This is the workshop for you. An Idaho Department of Insurance SHIBA representative will explain Medicare and all its pieces and parts, answer your questions, and de-mystify this healthcare program. In two hours, you will receive helpful resources, program updates, and peace-of-mind that you are on the right track.

Three Medicare Workshops to Fit Your Schedule (All workshops are the same!)

When: Wednesday, February 11, 2026 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. (PST)
Wednesday, May 6, 2026 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. (PST) **or**
Wednesday, October 21, 2026 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. (PST)

Where: **In Person** – Latah County Annex Building
2nd Floor Conference Room
200 S. Almon Street, Moscow, ID
OR Online through Zoom



Register in advance for your preferred workshop:

<https://tinyurl.com/2026Medicare>

Questions? Contact Karen (208) 883-2241 or kriche1@uidaho.edu



The University of Idaho is an equal opportunity employer and educational institution. We offer our programs to persons regardless of race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, sexual orientation, or disability. Persons with disabilities have the right to request reasonable accommodations. Please complete the accommodation form found at this link at least two weeks prior to the event: <https://www.uidaho.edu/extension/2026-08-08>



Season 4 of the Inland Northwest Artisan Grains™ Podcast Launching Soon!

The goal of the Inland Northwest Artisan Grains™ Podcast is to support the development of artisan grains values-based supply chains and production of value-added artisan grains products in the Inland Northwest region of Idaho, Washington, Oregon, and Montana.

STRETCHING FOR STRENGTH AND BALANCE



Enjoy a chair-based stretch class focusing on:
***Flexibility *Muscle strength *Stability &Balance**


Seated and standing exercises are adaptable for varying abilities.
Participants work at their own pace and comfort level.

When: Thursdays, 4-4:45PM
Where: University of Idaho Extension
1542 East 73rd South, Idaho Falls
Cost: \$10 / 2 months; first class is free!

To register or for more information, contact:
Leslee Blanch: (208)529-1390
lblanch@uidaho.edu



Scan QR code for Podcast :



AGELESS GRACE


For Brain, Body and Balance

JOIN OUR AGELESS GRACE CLASS! 🧠💪

Ageless Grace is a group exercise class based on everyday movements that focus on healthy longevity of the body and mind.

Day Pass/Punch cards available for non-members

COST: Free for Members
WHERE: Idaho Falls Family YMCA
WHEN: Every Fridays
TIME: 10:30 AM – 11:30 AM



“Memory Warriors”



ONLINE SUPPORT GROUP FOR PERSONS LIVING WITH DEMENTIA

MEETS EVERY OTHER WEDNESDAYS AT 10:30 A.M.

For more information and to register contact:
Idaho Community Care Program

(208) 898-9826 ccp@a3ssa.com www.a3ssa.com

PARTICIPANTS MUST BE REGISTERED TO RECEIVE THE ZOOM LINK




Online Fitness Classes

University of Idaho Extension



Fitness Made Simple!
Thursdays, 10:00-11:00AM MST

Chair-based seated and standing toning/strengthening exercises. Use of hand weights, resistance bands, and/or exercise balls optional. Modifiable for a variety of fitness levels.

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://uiidaho.zoom.us/j/85143098244>
 Meeting ID: 851 4309 8244
 Passcode: 693155

Suggested Equipment
 Resistance bands
 1-6-pound weights
 7-9-inch exercise ball

The University of Idaho does not discriminate in education or employment on the basis of human differences, as required by state and federal laws. Reasonable accommodations will be made for persons with disabilities and special needs who contact Laura Sant at least two weeks prior to the event at 561 W Oneida, Preston, ID 83263; 208-852-1097; lsant@uiidaho.edu.



The Meaningful Marketplace Podcast

The Meaningful Marketplace podcast brings listeners inspiring and insightful conversations with food entrepreneurs from the Northwest and Rocky Mountain Region. Each week, host Sarah Masoni, joined by a rotating local food system leader co-host, dives deep into the stories behind the businesses, exploring the unique journeys, challenges, and triumphs of individuals shaping the local food industry.

Here is the list of Idaho businesses that have been featured on the podcast: [Northern Latitude Foods](#), [Ballard Cheese](#), [Free Spirits Beverage Company](#), [Roots Potato Chips](#), [Oma & Poppies](#), [Snacktivist Foods](#), [Hummuna Hummus](#), [Dilly's Pickled Veggies](#), & [Hillside Grain](#).



Scan QR code to listen:



Spring 2026 FARM FINANCIAL ANALYSIS

February 25, March 4, 11, 18
7-8 PM MT | VIRTUAL

Join UI Extension for a Farm Financial Analysis class. Weekly instructional videos allow you to pause, rewind and apply the steps to your own company independently. Then we meet virtually as a group to answer questions and dive deeper into using these tools in your own business. Participants need access to a computer, internet and Microsoft Excel. Course links and related documents will be provided upon registration.

Topics covered include:

- Production Records
- Balance Sheets
- Income Statements
- Cash Flow, Enterprise and Partial Budgeting
- Farm Financial Analysis

Approved for FSA beginning borrower training.

COST: \$100/FARM UNIT

REGISTER: 208-529-1390 OR BONNEVILLE@UIDAHO.EDU

The University of Idaho provides and is an equal opportunity/affirmative action employer and educational organization. We offer our programs to persons regardless of race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, sexual orientation or disability.



Entrepreneurship and Business Planning for Small Farms, Ranches, and Specialty Food Businesses

Tuesdays, January 27 - March 10, 2026
9 - 11 am PT / 10 am - 12 pm MT online via Zoom
4-hour in-person or online intensives, February 10 & 24

\$50 per farm/ranch Early Bird Registration
After January 16 price increases to \$100 per farm/ranch

In this hands-on course, you'll learn and practice business management skills, write a business plan and create your own network of resources.

This course will have 4 statewide locations and an online option open to all in the Northwest!



PRACTICAL FARM AND RANCH FINANCIAL RECORDS

February 23, March 2, 9, 16 | 7-8 p.m. MT | Virtual

A beginner's guide to financial record keeping for your farm or ranch.

Course will cover:
Basic Accounting | Setting up a Company File | Customizing Your Chart of Accounts
Recording Transactions | Creating an Income Statement | Balance Sheets | Budgeting and More!

This class will follow a virtual hybrid format. Weekly instructional videos allow you to pause, rewind and apply the steps to your own company file independently. Then we meet virtually as a group to answer questions and dive deeper into using these tools in your own business.

Class does NOT include accounting software. Participants are expected to have their own accounting system. Course links will be provided upon registration completion.

Approved for FSA beginning borrower training.

Register: 208-529-1390 or bonneville@uidaho.edu
Cost: \$100 per farm unit
Questions? Ron Patterson, rpatterson@uidaho.edu or 208-529-1390



University of Idaho
Extension

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Join University of Idaho Extension for FALL & WINTER AGRICULTURE WORKSHOPS

<p>Practical Farm and Ranch Financial Records Oct. 6, 13, 20, 27 Online \$100 per farm unit Contact Ron Patterson: rpatterson@uidaho.edu 208-529-1390.</p> <p>Farm Financial Analysis Oct. 8, 15, 22, 29 Online \$100 per farm unit Contact Ron Patterson: rpatterson@uidaho.edu 208-529-1390.</p> <p>Beef Quality Assurance Certification & Training Oct. 21 Challis FREE Contact Sarah Baker: sfbaker@uidaho.edu 208-879-2344.</p> <p>Beef School Oct. 27 Mackay FREE Contact Sarah Baker: sfbaker@uidaho.edu 208-879-2344.</p> <p>Virtual Pesticide Applicator Training Dec. 3 Online FREE Contact Tom Jacobson: tjacobsn@uidaho.edu 208-624-3102.</p> <p>Introduction to Backyard Beekeeping Dec. 3, 10 Online \$75 Contact Jennifer Werlin: jwerlin@uidaho.edu 208-776-8235.</p> <p>Agriculture Entrepreneurship: Farm and Food Business Planning Jan.-April Online Cost TBD Contact Jennifer Werlin: jwerlin@uidaho.edu 208-776-8235.</p> <p>High-Altitude Idaho Master Gardener Program Jan.-Sept. Hybrid \$175 Contact Jennifer Werlin: jwerlin@uidaho.edu 208-776-8235.</p>	<p>Winter School Jan. 6, 13, 20, 27 & Feb. 3 Online FREE Contact Shannon Williams: shannonw@uidaho.edu 208-742-8866.</p> <p>Idaho Rangeland Livestock Symposium Jan. 8 Grace FREE Contact: scottj@uidaho.edu or jhatch@uidaho.edu.</p> <p>Idaho Master Gardener Online Program Jan. 14, 21, 28; Feb. 4, 11, 18, 25; March 4, 11, 18, 25; April 1 Online \$200 Contact rpatterson@uidaho.edu or tdawg@uidaho.edu.</p> <p>Discoveries in Agriculture Feb. 16 Rexburg FREE Contact Jared Gibbons: jaredg@uidaho.edu 208-356-3191.</p> <p>East Idaho Cereals Conference Feb. 4 Fort Hall Cost TBD Contact Justin Hatch: jhatch@uidaho.edu 208-547-3205.</p> <p>Upper Valley Soil Health Forum March 4 Rexburg \$40 Contact Jared Gibbons: jaredg@uidaho.edu 208-356-3191.</p> <p>Preston Forage School March 5 Preston \$10 Contact Braden Horderson: bradenh@uidaho.edu 208-882-1087.</p> <p>Virtual Pesticide Applicator Training March 11 Online FREE Contact Tom Jacobson: tjacobsn@uidaho.edu 208-624-3102.</p>
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Workshop units, available for a limited time, are subject to change. For more information on these courses, contact the instructor or the Extension office. The University of Idaho provides and is an equal opportunity/affirmative action employer and educational organization. We offer our programs to persons regardless of race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, sexual orientation or disability.

Meet Emma Bauer AmeriCorps Service Member



Emma (third from the left) with her peers graduation University of Washing-

Emma Bauer is the newest AmeriCorps Volunteer working with University of Idaho Extension (UIE) for this winter/spring season. She is splitting her time alternating with weeks at UIE and Teton Science School (TSS), as a field educator. She recently graduated from the University of Washington School of Public Health with a Bachelor of Science in Environmental Public Health and a minor in Data Science. Emma was born and raised in Seattle Washington, and this period working and living in Jackson/Teton Valley, is the first time she has spent an extended time outside of the Pacific Northwest.



Emma pictured working at a local community health fair,

Though she is new to the Valley, Emma has been trained to apply “Placed Based Education”, a driver of Teton Science School. This practice utilizes an immersive learning approach where the root of learning is led by the teaching of economy, ecology and culture and how they are all intertwined to make up a place. These elements help guide students to better understand the world around us. Al-

lowing students to understand the scaffolding of systems allows for a complex interpretation of why things are the way they are. This method of teaching has allowed Emma to understand how this new environment has come to be, in all its complexities. Applying this type of learning to new places has immensely increased Emma’s knowledge about this area and has allowed her to apply this awareness to her work as an educator and her at UIE.

When learning about Placed Based Education in her training at TSS, it reminded her of a concept drilled into her during her college education in environmental health. The concept was titled “One Health”, and it was a way of approaching public health issues by looking at the effect of the health of the environment, animals, and humans. Understanding that all these issues are interconnected and essentially one.

At the core of One Health lies the issue of food access, a concept Emma has always kept in mind. Food, whether from plants or animals, serves as an essential link connecting the health of all living beings. However, humans have significantly disrupted the natural balance between people, the environment, and animals through the development of industrial food systems. Ultimately reducing the quality of food available to us. Improving access to local, high-quality food is an essential preventive component of any strong health system. It is this concept that Emma hopes to contribute through her work at UIE.

Her work so far has been helping synthesize research done at the Teton Valley Farmers market to understand what is bringing people to the market. With the goal of increasing the number of people gaining access to high quality local foods. Another project she will be working on is strengthening an interactive database of local food providers in the area. Emma is excited to apply her knowledge of one health and place-based education to increase access to high quality local foods to all types of people in Teton Valley.



Emma pictured working at a local Seattle farmers market.



5 Things You Need to Know About AI

Highlights from Teton County 4-H STEAM Club by Abby Grundler

At STEAM Club, our 4-H youth explored one of the most talked-about technologies in the world right now—Artificial Intelligence (AI)! From robotics to art to agriculture, AI is becoming part of everyday life. Here are the five big takeaways our students learned:

1. AI Is a Tool—Not a Brain

Artificial Intelligence does not “think” or “feel” like humans. It is a computer system trained to recognize patterns and make predictions based on data. AI follows instructions created by people. It can be powerful—but it is not alive, and it does not replace human creativity, empathy, or judgment.

2. AI Learns From Data

AI systems learn by studying large amounts of information. For example, an AI trained to recognize animals looks at thousands of images to learn patterns. The quality of the data matters—if the data is incomplete or biased, the results can be too. Our 4-H youth discussed why human oversight is always important.

3. AI Is Already Around Us

AI isn’t just robots! We use it every day:

- Voice assistants
- Navigation apps
- Recommendation systems (like music or video suggestions)
- Smart farming equipment

We talked about how AI is even being used in agriculture to monitor crops, track livestock health, and improve efficiency—connecting directly to many of our 4-H projects.

4. AI Requires Responsibility

With powerful tools come important responsibilities. We discussed:

- Fact-checking information
- Protecting personal privacy
- Using AI ethically in schoolwork
- Being thoughtful digital citizens

Our youth practiced thinking critically about when and how to use AI appropriately.

5. Humans Are Still in Charge

The most important lesson: AI does not replace people—it supports them. Creativity, leadership, teamwork, and problem-solving are human strengths that technology cannot duplicate. In 4-H, we focus on building those life skills first.

Looking Ahead: 2026 State 4-H Ag-Robotics Competition

The 2026 State 4-H Ag-Robotics Competition has officially been announced—and this year’s theme is the **Vet-Bot Challenge!**

The Vet-Bot Challenge will roll out in April and will focus on how robotics and AI can be used in veterinary science. If you’re curious about how robots can assist with animal health, livestock monitoring, and agricultural innovation, the 2026 Ag-Robotics competition is the event for you.

This competition is an incredible opportunity for youth to:

- Apply engineering design skills
- Learn about real-world agricultural technology
- Explore careers in veterinary science and ag-tech
- Work as a team to solve hands-on challenges

Competition is open to all 4-H youth 9-13 years old. More details will be shared as they become available. If your child is interested in participating, please reach out—we would love to build a team!

AI fits perfectly into the 4-H pledge—using our *heads to clearer thinking* and our *hands to larger service*. As technology continues to evolve, our STEAM Club youth are learning not just how it works—but how to use it wisely.

— Abby Grundler
Teton County 4-H STEAM Club Leader





MARCH

2nd Cloverbud STEAM Club 3:30-4:45 PM

2nd 4-H/FFA Beef Weigh-In 5-6 pm

3rd ABC Afterschool Victor



4th ABC Afterschool Driggs

- Craft Club Meeting 4:15-5:30 PM

5th STEAM Club Afterschool 4-5:15 PM

6th STEAM Club Friday 10-12 PM



8th Daylight Saving Time Begins

9th Swine Meeting 6-8 PM

- Cloverbud STEAM Club 3:30-4:45



10th ABC Afterschool Victor

11th ABC Afterschool Driggs

- Craft Club Meeting 4:15-5:30 PM



- Fair Board Meeting 7-9 PM

12th STEAM Club Afterschool 4-5:15

13th STEAM Club Friday 10-12 PM



16th Cloverbud STEAM Club 3:30-4:45

- Hiking Club 4:30-5:30

- Photography Club Meeting 6:30-8:30



17th ABC Afterschool Victor

Happy St. Patrick's Day



18th ABC Afterschool Driggs

- Craft Club 4:15-5:30

- Sadow Riders Horse Club 6-8:30 PM



19th STEAM Club Afterschool 4-5:15

20th STEAM Club Friday 10-12 PM



23rd Cloverbud STEAM Club 3:30-4:45

- Swine Meeting 6-8 PM

24th ABC Afterschool Victor



25th ABC Afterschool Driggs

26th STEAM Club Afterschool 4-5:15 PM

27th STEAM Club Friday 10-12 PM



March 27-April 5 SPRING BREAK

Office Closed



APRIL

SPRING BREAK March 29-April 4th
Office Closed



6th Babysitter Club 4-5:30

- Swine Meeting 6-8 PM



7th Shotgun Club Meeting 6 PM

8th Fair Board Meeting 7-9 PM

- Hams and Lambs Club Meeting 6:30 PM

9th Archery Club Meeting 6 PM

10th Ag-Robotics Vet-Bot Challenge
Meeting 10-12



13th Babysitter Club 4-5:30

- Photography Club Meeting 6:30-8:30

14th Shotgun Club Meeting 6 PM

15th ABC 4-H Friday Day Camp Enrollment
through ABC opens

- 4-H Shadow Riders Club Meeting 6-8:30 PM

16th Archery Club Meeting 6 PM

17th Ag-Robotics Vet-Bot Chal-

lenge

Meeting 10-12



20th Babysitter Club 4-5:30

- Swine Weigh-in 4-6 PM

- Swine Club Meeting 6-8 PM



21st Babysitter Club 4-5:30

- Shotgun Club Meeting 6 PM

22nd Hams and Lambs Club Meeting 6:30 PM

23rd Archery Club Meeting 6 PM

24th Ag-Robotics Vet-Bot Challenge
Meeting 10-12



27th Swine Club Meeting 6-8 PM

28th Babysitter Club 4-5:30

- Shotgun Club Meeting 6 PM

30th Paperwork due by 47 PM-(Breeding
projects, Horse, Dog, Cat, Poultry)

- Archery Club 6 PM



4-H STEM CORPS INSTRUCTOR

at
**TETON COUNTY
EXTENSION OFFICE**

POSITION DETAILS

- SERVICE COMMITMENT
- 450 HOURS 16 WEEKS 25-30 HOURS PER WEEK
- DRIGGS, IDAHO
- APPLY BY APRIL 20TH

BENEFITS

- EARN A LIVING ALLOWANCE!
- \$6,200.00 PAID IN ALLOTMENTS OF \$775.00 EVERY TWO WEEKS
- GET MONEY FOR SCHOOL!
 - EARN EDUCATIONAL AWARD \$1,956.35
- PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT
- NETWORKING

WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

TEACHING STEAM DAY CAMPS OFFERED:

- AGRICULTURE
- ROBOTICS
- LEGO
- ART
- MUSIC



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4-H STEM
CORPS



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IDAHO

AmeriCorps prohibits all forms of discrimination and harassment based on: the protected categories of race, color, national origin, sex, age, religion, sexual orientation, disability (mental or physical), gender identity or expression, political affiliation, marital or parental status, pregnancy, reprisal, genetic information (including family medical history), or military service.

2026 4-H Ag-Robotics Vet-Bot Challenge

Meeting Practice Design Dates

April 10, 17, 24,

May 1, 15, 22,

June 17, 24,

July 1

Competition Date July 11, 9-3 PM

6 TEAMS 4 Team Mates

All 4-H Members invited to Participate

Enroll in Zsuite S.T.E.A.M. State AgRobotics Competition Club

Must be 9-13 to participate

Enrollment Deadline April 3, 2026 4 PM

Limited to 24 4-H members so sign up early

The University of Idaho is an equal-opportunity employer and educational institution. We offer our programs to persons regardless of race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, sexual orientation, or disability. Persons with disabilities have the right to request reasonable accommodations. Please complete the accommodations form found at [this link](https://www.uidaho.edu/extension/civil-rights) at least two weeks prior to the event: <https://www.uidaho.edu/extension/civil-rights>.



Enroll today:

Club Members must be 12 as of January 1st 2026

Club members will learn Safety, First Aid, and the "Business of Babysitting"
4h.zsuite.org

Teton County 4-H Babysitter Club

Club Dates:

April 6, 13, 21, 28 4-5:30 PM UI Extension 445 N Main Driggs

May 5, 12, 18 4-5:30 PM UI Extension 445 N Main Driggs

For more information contact Abby Grundler at 208-776-8235

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ALPINE CAMP FUNDRAISER

FUNDS WILL BE USED TOWARDS
NEW BATHROOM'S AND TO
REPLACE/REPAIR THE CABIN ROOFS

FUNDS CAN BE SENT TO: ALPINE 4-H CAMP INC.
561 W ONEIDA ST, PRESTON, ID 83263

YOU CAN PAY BY ZEFFY THROUGH THE QR CODE OR
MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO ALPINE 4-H CAMP

FOR ANY QUESTIONS CALL THE BINGHAM COUNTY 4-H OFFICE
AT (208) 785-8060



To enrich education through diversity the University of Idaho is an equal opportunity employer and educational institution. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information or reasonable accommodations need to contact Bingham County 4-H office by June 4, 2025 at 412 West Pacific Street, Blackfoot, ID 83221, phone 208-785-8060.

WANT TO BE A 4-H MUSTANG TRAINER?



JOIN US TODAY AND TRAIN A LIVING LEGEND!

- Are you at least 14 years old?
- Are you a current member of an Idaho Horse 4-H Club?
- Do you love horses and want to learn how to be a better trainer?
- Do you have twelve weeks to invest in a mustang project?

If you answered YES to the questions above, you are on your way to participating in this exciting program!

When wild horses are gathered from one of the BLM's Herd Management Areas, Idaho's 4-H youth partner with BLM to provide training for young mustangs throughout a 12-week period from June through Labor Day weekend. When 4-H youth finish working with the young mustangs, the horses are able to lead on a halter and are very comfortable with people. Then, the 4-H youth compete in a mustang-only in-hand trail competition at the Eastern Idaho State Fair in Blackfoot. The competition judge scores the youth and their horses on a small obstacle course that include such challenges as leading the young mustangs to walk over a large sheet of plastic, stepping over several small logs, trotting under halter, backing through a narrow log path, picking up their feet, and loading/unloading from a trailer. After the competition, the young mustangs are available to the public for adoption.

The University of Idaho 4-H and BLM Wild Horse Training Program is a partnership program started in 2009. Through this program, 4-H youth have helped over 400 mustangs to get adopted and the program has raised over \$130,000 for 4-H clubs in Idaho.

Follow us on Facebook:
East Idaho 4-H and BLM Wild Horse Program



University of Idaho
 Extension



For more information, contact the Bureau of Land Management at 208-524-7500 or your local University of Idaho 4-H Extension Office.

FEED, NUTRITION & MEAT QUALITY

We're excited to welcome guest educator Jesse Warntjes from Associated Feed for an educational clinic designed to help you and your livestock projects succeed this show season.

All Species Clinic Covering:

- Proper daily care
- Nutrition strategies
- Feeding programs
- Tips to maximize performance and growth

Following the clinic, enjoy a Meat Quality Demo presented by DJ Processing, where we'll take a closer look at carcass value and what matters most for a finished project.

WEDNESDAY

MARCH 11 TH
6:30 P.M.

CARRIAGE HOUSE

BONNEVILLE COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS
1542 E 73RD S | IDAHO FALLS

Associated
FEED & SUPPLY CO.



SHOWMAKER

SHOW-RITE
Show Feeds... Done Right!

**R.S.V.P.
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Sponsored By: Rockin' Cross Country Store

(208)529-0766 | rockincross208@gmail.com



University of Idaho
Extension



2026

National Teen Events

www.uidaho.edu/extension/4h/events

Airfare not included



**MAR
25-29**

Ignite by 4-H

Registration \$1200 open July 15-Aug. 15, 2025

Youth must be at least 14 by January 1, 2026

\$600 scholarships available

WASHINGTON, DC



**SEPT
27-30**

National 4-H Dairy Conference

Registration \$1000 open April 15-June 1, 2026

Must be at least 15 by January 1 and have two years of Dairy 4-H Projects

MADISON, WI



**NOV 27
-DEC 1**

National 4-H Congress

Registration \$1100 open May 15-July 1, 2026

Youth in grades 10-12

ATLANTA, GA

FOR MORE INFORMATION

CONTACT:

Mike Knutz mknutz@uidaho.edu

Teresa Tverdy ttverdy@uidaho.edu

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Learn Everywhere with 4-H

University of Idaho Extension

Earn High School Credit

Build Life Skills

- ✓ Leadership
- ✓ Professionalism
- ✓ Civic Responsibility
- ✓ Teamwork

Do More With 4-H

LEARN MORE

learneverwhere@uidaho.edu

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Interested....

Contact the **Learn Everywhere with 4-H team** or your local University of Idaho Extension office (**Teton County 208-776-8235 ask for Abby**) to learn more about:

- earning school credit
- enrolling in an approved course
- helping your school to be a participating high school

Email: learneverwhere@uidaho.edu

LEARN EVERYWHERE WITH 4-H

Opportunity for high school credit. Enrollment opens: January 1, 2026

[Learn Everywhere with 4-H](#)

Learn Everywhere in Idaho gives students in grades 7–12 enrolled in public, charter, and online public schools the opportunity to earn high school credit for their 4-H experiences.

Through this program, students enroll in an online course and combine a 4-H project, such as Animal Science or Know Your Government, with lessons written by University of Idaho Extension Educators.

Students complete a minimum of 60 hours of learning, including hands-on project work, a record book, a demonstration of skills, and an interview, along with learning activities that support college and career readiness.

Upon successful completion, participating Idaho schools award high school credit, which is recorded directly on the student's official transcript.

2026-2027 4-H KNOW YOUR GOVERNMENT STEERING COMMITTEE



JUDICIAL

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Porter DeVore - Payette County

James Erickson - Ada County

Bethany Osler - Ada County

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Beyond Ready



IDAHO 4-H INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE PROGRAMS

Thank you to all counties with Outbound delegates, we are excited to be sending four delegates abroad this summer! Host family applications are open for families interested in hosting a delegate this summer!

UPDATES



WANT MORE EXCHANGE STUDENTS IN YOUR COUNTY?

Contact: Courtney Reimers
Email: creimers@uidaho.edu

Application link:
states4hexchange.org/apply/host



PROGRAMS

INBOUND

WE ARE LOOKING FOR 13 IDAHO FAMILIES TO HOST JAPANESE DELEGATES THIS SUMMER!

JAPAN EXCHANGE DATES:
JULY 21- AUGUST 18

FAMILIES WHO APPLIED FIRST WILL HAVE THE FIRST PICK OF DELEGATES AFTER BIOS ARE RELEASED IN FEBRUARY.

OUTBOUND

CONGRATULATIONS!
PAYETTE COUNTY
GEM COUNTY
TETON COUNTY
KOOTENAI COUNTY

EACH COUNTY HAS ONE DELEGATE APPLIED TO GO OUTBOUND THIS SUMMER!

SHOUT OUT

THANK YOU, BEYOND READY AND 4-H STEM ON THE STREETS FOR ALLOWING US TO SPEAK ABOUT THE 4-H EXCHANGE PROGRAMS TO YOUR YOUTH!

VIDEO HERE:
[HTTPS://YOUTU.BE/KI0KOSSPBSC](https://youtu.be/KI0KOSSPBSC)

NATIONAL 4-H HISTORY PRESERVATION

SHARE YOUR 4-H HISTORY

Do you have a 4-H History Story to share?

Send your articles to:

Editor@4-HHistory.com

Submissions should be approximately 500 words.



CALL TO ACTION: SEEKING 4-H HISTORY STORIES!

Do you have a story to share?

Submit for the National 4-H History Preservation newsletter.

Editor@4-HHistory.com - 500 words max.



FOUNDATION FOR
THE PRESERVATION
OF HONEY BEES, INC.

2026 4-H Essay Contest The Power of Pollen

For this essay, a 4-H student should answer these questions: How is pollen important to bees? Has pollen been changing in plants and in our landscapes? If so, are those changes affecting bees? When do you observe the most and least pollen in your colonies and how does that impact their temperament and productivity?

Eligibility: The 2026 National 4-H Beekeeping Essay Competition is open to active 4-H Club members only.

Any 4-H Club member who placed first, second or third in previous years of the national competition is NOT eligible to win in 2026; however, state competition winners remain eligible to enter the national competition. Essays entered must encompass the designated topic only. There will be no exceptions.

Competition Rules & Essay Requirements: Any 4-H Club member interested in writing an essay should contact their local 4-H office for competition details. The state selection process must be completed through the 4-H system.

Failure to meet any one of the essay requirements will result in disqualification.

Essay Requirements for National Judging: Essays must be typewritten or computer-generated on single-sided pages and formatted following standard manuscript format using double-spaced type and 12pt font in a legible font face.

Essays must encompass the designated topic in 750 to 1,000 words. Word count does not include sources, works cited, or the writer's biographical statement.

All factual statements and interview references must be cited in "sources" or "bibliography."

Essays will be judged on (a) scope of research, 40%; (b) accuracy, 30%; (c) creativity, 10%; (d) conciseness, 10%; and (e) logical development of the topic, 10%.

On a separate page, please include a brief biographical statement of the writer including mailing address, email address, and phone number. **The statement "I verify that AI was not used to create this essay" must also be included at the bottom of the essay and signed.**

**The deadline for national submission is May 1, 2026.
National winners will be announced: June 15, 2026**

Each state may submit only ONE entry.

National competition entries may be submitted for judging via mail to the address listed below or email to info@abfnet.org. Use "4-H Essay Entry from <State>" as the subject line.

**Foundation for the Preservation of Honey Bees
480 Town Center St. N, PMB #253
Mooreville, IN 46158-1379**

Decisions made by the trustees of the Foundation for the Preservation of Honey Bees during national judging are final. All national competition entries become the property of the foundation and may be used as it sees fit. No essays will be returned.

Awards:

Three cash prizes will be awarded in the 2026 National 4-H Beekeeping Essay Competition. The author of the highest-scoring essay will win first prize. The author of the second-highest scoring essay will win second prize. The author of the third-highest scoring essay will win third prize.

First Prize: \$750

Second Prize: \$500

Third Prize: \$250

The three prize-winning essays will be published in the ABF Quarterly, the magazine of the American Beekeeping Federation as well as the national trade magazines. Authors of the three prize-winning essays will be given a complimentary registration to the next ABF annual conference. All authors of essays submitted to the national competition will receive a relevant book on honey bees, beekeeping, or honey.



EXTENSION UPDATE

UPCOMING EVENTS

REGISTRATION 4-H 2025-2026 YEAR

Now Open 4h.zsuite.org

AG ENTREPRENEURSHIP COURSE

January 13,-March 10th See flier page 4

FAIR BOARD MEETING

March 11th Teton County Courthouse 7 PM

4-H AG ROBOTICS COMPETITION

See Page 15

ABC AFTERSCHOOL VES/DES

program March 3, 4, 10 ,11, 17,18, 24, 25 Vic-
tor Elementary and Driggs Elementary

BEEKEEPING MEETING: Mar 19, 2026 07:00 PM

Mountain Time (US and Canada), via Zoom

Register in advance for this meeting:

[https://uidaho.zoom.us/meeting/register/
Lyoj2oz3SjKe9CvSqn_ihw](https://uidaho.zoom.us/meeting/register/Lyoj2oz3SjKe9CvSqn_ihw)

TETON VALLEY MASTER GARDENER COURSE

January 29, 2026-September 30, 2026

TETON FARM AND COALITION MEETING

March 25, 2026 12am-1 pm
www.tetonfoodfarmcoalition.org

IGNITE BY 4-H WASHINGTON DC

March 25-29 2026

NATIONAL 4-H DAIRY CONFERENCE

September 27-30 Madison WI.

NATIONAL 4-H CONGRESS

November 27- December 1 Atlanta GA.

CONTACT US

UNIVERSITY OF IDAHO EXTENSION, TETON COUNTY

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150 Courthouse Dr. #208. Driggs, ID 83422

Physical Address:

445 N. Main St., Driggs, ID. 83422

Phone: 208-776-8235

Email: teton@uidaho.edu

Web: <https://www.uidaho.edu/extension/county/teton/4-h>

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teton4h@uidaho.edu

