

EXTENSION TRENDS: **BONNER COUNTY**

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2025 By the Numbers

- **613** direct contacts
- **424** youth participants
- **124** volunteers
- **358** volunteer hours

Our Advisory Council

Special thanks to our volunteers who help shape programming and inform the work we do for UI Extension in Bonner County:

Diane Green, Tina Imlay, Harry Menser, Connie Trotter, Nancy Mangham and Sarah Garcia.

UI Extension Educator



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2025 Impact

The Idaho Master Gardener program and other horticulture classes were offered in 2025, with 10 participants taking the training and four becoming certified Idaho Master Gardener volunteers. The new volunteers and 21 continuing volunteers contributed 358 hours of service related to home horticulture. This included answering 53 plant clinic questions, attending six farmer market sessions, setting up and staffing a fair booth, conducting youth garden activities and camps and maintaining a demonstration garden next to the UI Extension office.

A total of 350 forest owners, loggers and professional foresters attended UI Extension forestry programs held in Bonner County, including the Forestry Shortcourse, Identifying Idaho Trees, Landscaping for Fire Prevention, 10 Acres and a Dream, Idaho Master Forest Stewards core training sessions and field tours, Pruning to Restore White Pine, and Measuring your Trees. Many Bonner County forest owners, loggers and foresters also attended programs held in adjacent panhandle counties. Twenty Bonner County forest owners are certified Idaho Master Forest Stewards, who provided 515 hours of volunteer service to 5,022 forest owners and others in northern Idaho counties.

4-H in Bonner County

The traditional UI Extension 4-H program in Bonner County includes 12 clubs throughout the county. There were 99 volunteers and 372 youth members during the 2024-25 4-H year. Projects offered included: archery, beef, cat, cooking, crochet, dog, goat, horse, jewelry making, leathercraft, photography, poultry, rabbit, rifle, sewing, swine and vet science.

In addition to managing clubs and projects, UI Extension offered additional county youth events such as the Junior Master Gardener program and youth gardening activities at afterschool programs and the homeschool academy. The Junior Master Gardener program met once a week for five weeks. Participants learned about butterflies, botany, garden design, fruits and vegetables. The Extension educator and Master Gardener volunteers held several activities with afterschool programs that included wreath making, planting strawberries and planting corn and pumpkins in the Southside Elementary School Garden.

On the Horizon

UI Extension, Bonner County will work with other county Extension offices to offer the Cultivating Success – Agricultural Entrepreneurship and Business Planning class, a farm and food business planning course that addresses the necessary steps to create a business plan. This program will be a combination of online webinars and in-person workshops. Course topics include business planning and structure, value proposition: product and industry description, how and where to sell: market channel analysis, customer relations: marketing and branding, business analysis: key activities, resources, farm record keeping basics, financial management, enterprise budgets and operational budgeting, operational risk management, and labor management.

The Bonner County Farm Tour will be offered, which highlights farm and forestry enterprises in the county. The Extension office will also assist with the Clark Fork River Pedal and Farm Tour, a scenic ~30-mile bike tour through forests, meadows and farms along the Clark Fork River in Montana and Idaho. UI Extension will also continue working with Idaho Master Gardener volunteers to track the emergence of two fruit tree pests, codling moth and western cherry fruit fly.