

EXTENSION TRENDS: **GOODING COUNTY**

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2025 By the Numbers

- 14,242 direct contacts
- 1,214 youth participants
- 37 volunteers
- 2,870 volunteer hours
- \$372,282 extramural funding

Our Advisory Council

Special thanks to our volunteers who help shape programming and inform the work we do for UI Extension in Gooding County: Annie Burke, Bryce Chambers, Dinah Reaney, Jason Joung, Jesse Deelstra, John W. Wright, Kristy Hall, Laura Hooper, Mark Bolduc, Pete Deelstra and Ron Buhler.

UI Extension Educators



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2025 Impact

The 2025 Waste to Worth national conference was held in Boise with the sponsorship of the Idaho Sustainable Initiative for Dairy (ISAID) grant and agricultural sector companies. Hosted by the Livestock and Poultry Environmental Learning Community (LPELC) and the University of Idaho, this conference brought together national experts on agricultural waste and resource management. Graduate students from Idaho and the nation interacted with scientists, producers and allied industry, presenting the latest advances in manure and agricultural environmental resources management. Three conference tours showcased Idaho's agriculture and water management to conference attendees. In addition to continuing with the local ISAID studies, a graduate student defended his M.S. thesis on cover crops and corn silage and their relationship to nutrient management.

Youth development programs during the year included the Teen Mentor and 4-H Summer Camp Counselor program, which provided courses in science, leadership and camp counseling. A Goat Clinic and workshop by UI Extension personnel and 4-H teen volunteers offered classes on goat production and management for students from the Idaho School for the Deaf and Blind. Also, with the help of teen volunteers, an Ag Safety Day was conducted in conjunction with the St. Luke's Hospital Safety Day. UI Extension, Gooding County also offers presentations on dairy workers' agricultural safety, occupational health, and farm biosecurity. The reach and impact of these presentations are increasing through a partnership with Dairy West.

4-H in Gooding County

The UI Extension 4-H program in Gooding County involved 33 volunteers who managed 17 organized clubs with 218 youth club members. The 2025 Gooding County Fair served as the platform for the presentation of 324 projects in the areas of leadership, shooting sports, family and consumer science and large and small animals. In addition to club activities, youth participated in countywide outreach programs, including the spring break program of baking, cake-decorating and FCS/STEM workshops. Youth also excelled beyond the county level, with multiple teams competing at district, state and national contests. Two members attended the National Dairy Conference; three teams competed in livestock judging, with one qualifying for nationals; two teams competed in the Livestock Skill-a-thon at state, with one advancing to nationals resulting in a 3rd place in team evaluation, 10th place in team identification, 7th place in team quality assurance, 7th place for overall team and one member placed 16th high individual; teams competing in the state shooting sports contest earned 4th in compound: 3-D, 2nd in FITA and Overall, 5th in Trap, 4th in Skeet and 5th Overall. Gooding County hosted the Idaho Livestock Quiz Bowl in 2025 and supported the state team's preparation for nationals by coordinating three educational sessions.

On the Horizon

Research and Extension programs related to the long-term ISAID grant continue to generate data to develop solutions for Idaho dairy and crop producers. The U of I partnership with Dairy West includes a program on training dairy workers to respond to emergencies in the workplace, allowing them to effectively act until emergency crews arrive onsite. The 4-H/Youth educator is focused on creating curriculum and resources to help youth members, volunteer leaders and other clientele expand science, leadership and animal management skills and experiences.

In addition to club work with volunteers and the Gooding County Fair, the 4-H coordinator is expanding community reach with 4-H based curricula through spring break activities and partnerships with libraries, afterschool programs and other community-based institutions and volunteers.