

EXTENSION TRENDS: **BEAR LAKE COUNTY**

University of Idaho Extension, Bear Lake County • www.uidaho.edu/bear-lake



2025 By the Numbers

- **9,731** direct contacts
- **803** youth participants
- **43** volunteers
- **1,030** volunteer hours
- **\$6,395** extramural funding

Our Advisory Council

Special thanks to our volunteers who help shape programming and inform the work we do for UI Extension in Bear Lake County: Rex Payne, Emily Transtrum, Penny Bassett, Janet Passey, Cameron Crane, Luke Kelsey, Kyler Dygert, Leslie Talbot, Amanda Collins, Nate Mortimer, Kandi Rudd, Courtney Boehme, Jordon Hobbs, Mary Crane, Jennifer Jenson and Layne Keetch.

UI Extension Educator



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2025 Impact

To meet varying needs for programming, Educator Kari Ure organized Extension education with visiting speakers. She sought feedback from community members and used information gained from the 2024 needs assessment to determine subjects and then found experts to share research-based information. The Dinner (or Lunch) and a Speaker events were well received by the community and included topics such as estate and succession planning, ag mental wellness, home buying, overcoming trauma, and voles and squirrel control. In addition to adult programming, the monthly newsletter connected county residents to virtual programs across the state. This yielded Bear Lake County's first certified Idaho Master Gardener. The individual saw the promotion in the monthly newsletter and completed the online program. She is now promoting the program to other county residents and led an eight-week Junior Master Gardener 4-H club during the summer. She plans to lead this club again in 2026.

Ure was also active in teaching the Preserve@Home multi-state online food preservation program. She obtained three major brands of freeze dryers and taught freeze dryer classes throughout the district and online. Comparison research on the three machines has started and further research will continue. Freeze dryer classes included virtual and in person classes for adults as well as education through a 4-H Freeze Dryer club.

4-H in Bear Lake County

The Bear Lake 4-H Camp Club was created in efforts to promote and strengthen the Alpine 4-H Camp program. Camper numbers had decreased, teen counselor numbers had been low, and teen counselors are crucial to the camp program. Camp Club met from March to June where youth learned skills and interacted with one another and with Extension leaders. Camp Club meetings included growth mindset, emotional intelligence, nutrition and hydration, safety at camp, first aid, astronomy, tie dying shirts and backpacks, as well as many team building and getting to know one another activities. Teen counselors increased from three in 2024 to nine in 2025 and younger campers increased from 13 in 2024 to 19 in 2025. Teen counselors were given the opportunity to develop lifelong mentoring skills and younger campers developed anticipation to be teen counselors once old enough. Bear Lake County youth recognized other Bear Lake County youth at camp and reported making friends with one another prior to camp. Many of the youth in Camp Club were able to name every Bear Lake County youth attending camp. Bear Lake County adult leaders were better equipped to understand and know each youth and their temperament and needs. Youth who will be the age of teen counselors next year reported being excited to come back to camp and are ready to be a teen counselor.

On the Horizon

UI Extension looks forward to further testing the freeze dryers recently obtained. Testing and classes will continue to yield research to help residents with research-based food preservation information. Ure organized training for educators in the Money Habitudes program and looks forward to collaboration for statewide education. The program will provide Idaho residents with training to explore their money habits and attitudes leading to better money choices. The UI Extension, Bear Lake County 4-H program looks forward to ongoing growth in the Camp Club program with new and returning campers, especially teen counselors.