

EXTENSION TRENDS: **BUTTE COUNTY**

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2025 By the Numbers

- **1,071** direct contacts
- **124** youth participants
- **17** volunteers
- **850** volunteer hours
- **\$55,628** extramural funding

Our Advisory Council

Special thanks to our volunteers who help shape programming and inform the work we do for UI Extension in Butte County: Elijah Hargreaves, Kirby Jensen, Brent McMurtrey, Melinda Shodin, Brian Harrell, Wylee Nally, Ty Pancheri, Bryton Pancheri, Joni Pitcher, Paul Wanstrom, Jared Ashton, Natalie Ashton, Kardee Ashton, Brad Smoot, Wayne Ouellette and Tiffany Jones.

UI Extension Educator



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2025 Impact

Agricultural classes and workshops were held in the areas of forage production, small grains, pasture, pest management and stress management allowing farmers the opportunities to improve their skills and maintain their licenses. A series of meetings were held on gardening topics in Butte County, with 17 individuals attending at least one of the six classes.

A tillage demonstration trial continues in Howe in conjunction with the Butte/South Custer Soil and Water Conservation District. Community development work is focused on teaching youth about the importance of training after high school, how to pay for college and the acquisition of job skills.

The UI Extension advisory committee met in October 2025 and offered an array of topics for classes in 2026. Water management and safely using pesticides ranked as priority agriculture topics. Self-reliance and budgeting were the highest priorities for community development. Trade skills were the most mentioned areas for 4-H Youth Development expansion.

4-H in Butte County

The UI Extension 4-H program in Butte County had active beef, cat, chicken, geology, goat, horse, rabbit, sheep, shooting sports, swine and robotics clubs in 2025. Most youth participated in the Butte County Fair in August. The 4-H market animal sale matched previous year's total sales with fewer animals being sold. Several youth also competed in the Eastern Idaho State Fair.

The geology club was new this year with strong membership. Shooting sports club added rim fired rifle, pistol, and Dutch oven cooking this year. The Lost River Straight Shooters club serves the youth of both Butte and Custer counties. More volunteer leaders were certified, which allowed new projects to be offered this and in the coming year.

UI Extension interns reached new audiences by conducting weekly day camps in Arco, Howe and Moore.

On the Horizon

The tillage demonstration trial continues in Howe with the crop changing to lentils for 2026. Plans are in place to host two AmeriCorps volunteers to help with 4-H positive youth development for the summer of 2026. Several 4-H clubs will have new volunteer leaders for 2026. New volunteers are planning on offering market turkey, coin collecting and murder mysteries clubs.

Gardening classes are scheduled bi-weekly from January through March and monthly agricultural classes are planned.