

EXTENSION TRENDS: **ADAMS COUNTY**

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2025 By the Numbers

- 741 direct contacts
- 74 youth participants
- 16 volunteers
- 160 volunteer hours

Our Advisory Council

Special thanks to our volunteers who help shape programming and inform the work we do for UI Extension in Adams County: Gordon Cruickshank, Dean and Sandy Dryden, Dave Veselka, Sara Swain, Justin and Shirley Florence, Adams County Commissioners Adams County Fair Board and Adams County 4-H Volunteer Leaders Council.

UI Extension Educator



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2025 Impact

Ranchers Feeding Youth is a program I have led for the past twelve years. The Ranchers Feeding Youth program is an in-school educational program focused on the role of cattle in both the environment and human society, offered in partnership with the Payette River Cattle Association, the Adams/Valley Farm Bureau and UI Extension offices in Adams and Valley counties. Students learn about responsible natural resource management, the importance of livestock to food systems and ecosystems, and potential careers in the livestock and agriculture industries. This program is delivered on a rotating basis every other year to schools in Adams and Valley counties. Surveys show that participating youth are more likely to consider a career in agriculture after completing the program.

Living Rural is a series of classes developed in response to needs identified by county stakeholders and advisory committees. Due to frequent inclement weather during the late winter when these classes are offered, they are delivered via Zoom. Post-program surveys show a 100% increase in participant knowledge, and participants report plans to implement at least one new practice learned in the class within the year.

4-H in Adams County

The UI Extension 4-H program in Adams County continues to demonstrate strong and consistent growth in participation and outcomes for youth. Membership increased again in 2025, including a 6% rise in traditional club enrollment, and number of certified volunteers has doubled since 2024. This growth reflects the expanding interest among youth in traditional livestock and horse projects — such as swine, sheep, goats and steers — while also embracing new opportunities like natural sciences and leadership focused programs.

Youth actively participated in a wide range of county, district and state 4-H experiences, including Know Your Government, Southern District 4-H Horse Camp, horse judging, horse hippology, civic leadership, public speaking, horsemanship, teamwork and hands-on learning opportunities. Classes taught by UI Extension throughout the year further supported project learning, skill development and personal growth.

Healthy Living 4-H enrichment classes were launched in winter 2024–25, offering physical exercise along with lessons in hygiene, nutrition, self-awareness and gratitude. This effort reinforces 4-H's commitment to the physical, mental and emotional wellbeing of youth.

Through increasing enrollment, expanding volunteer leadership and diverse educational opportunities, Adams County 4-H continues to positively shape youth into capable, confident and community-minded young adults.

On the Horizon

UI Extension, Adams County is providing leadership and teaching in the new Council Elementary School greenhouse. American Folk Dancing will be offered as a 4-H enrichment activity that is also combined with a healthy living activity to include both exercise and nutrition.