

# EXTENSION TRENDS: **ADA COUNTY**

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## 2025 By the Numbers

- **19,641** direct contacts
- **1,885** youth participants
- **213** volunteers
- **7,318** volunteer hours
- **\$569,240** extramural funding

## UI Extension Educators



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## 2025 Impact

University of Idaho Extension has had an impactful presence in Ada County since 1910 as the first Extension location in the state. Community food systems and small farms programs continued to increase access to locally grown food and support new and beginning farmers and food entrepreneurs in 2025. Whether delivering statewide education targeted at reducing risk for military veterans engaged in small scale agriculture, developing opportunities at a public teaching farm, contributing to the success of a new weeknight Farmers Market in Boise, or engaging preschool youth in growing edible gardens in their classrooms, Area Educator Ariel Agenbroad leveraged external funding and collaborated with community partners to engage clientele through targeted outreach and extension activities.

The UI Extension, Ada County horticulture program strengthened community knowledge in sustainable landscape management while offering services for both residents and industry professionals. The free Plant Clinic provided individualized plant health education and research-based recommendations to more than 1,800 residents and commercial stakeholders, improving landscape health and reducing unnecessary pesticide use. The program welcomed new horticulture Educator Sierra Laverty and supported a College of Western Idaho horticulture technology intern who worked alongside volunteers to care for and catalog plant collections in the demonstration landscape, enhancing this public learning resource. Master Gardener engagement remained a core program strength, with 36 new students joining 86 Advanced and Continuing Master Gardeners in delivering community education and supporting key projects. Educational outreach reached 736 people through classes offered in libraries, schools, and partner locations, while an additional 2,932 residents – including 1,092 youth – engaged with hands-on learning at the Western Idaho Fair, Idaho Botanical Garden's Bug Day, and other public events. Collaboration with local arborists and urban forestry professionals expanded in 2025, increasing the program's capacity to deliver up-to-date tree care guidance to industry and homeowners.

In 2025, the University of Idaho Diabetes Prevention Program (DPP), led by Educator Bridget Morrisroe, was the first Extension program to successfully receive Medicare (MDPP) reimbursement. Building the capacity and infrastructure to become a DPP Medicare provider and seek reimbursement was a long-term goal. The UI faculty applied for CDC recognition in 2017 and received full recognition by 2020. To reach this status, they successfully delivered the program for four years reporting data to meet the CDC success criteria of a 5-7% overall weight loss and increased physical activity for 50% of participants. Morrisroe provided leadership for a multi-county first year and Advanced Master Food Safety Advisor volunteer program in southwest Idaho. In 2025 she taught a 7-week, first year program via a hybrid modality with online delivery of content and in person food preservation labs. Morrisroe partnered with the City of Boise "Curb it" program material management specialist, and three Extension faculty to develop a project focused on minimizing home food waste. The team developed a one-time workshop, toolkit with tip sheet and food inventory, and published an Extension bulletin. Participant surveys

were conducted and responses showed that only 11% of participants were very aware of the impact of home food waste on the environment before the presentation and 95% after attending. The survey results also showed that 95% of attendees planned to use the presentation information and tools. In addition to presentations, over 500 toolkits have been distributed at community events including the Boise Farmer's Market, and the new City of Boise Apartment compost sites. Morrisroe also collaborated on the Dementia Friends and 4-H Building Fences programs and provided leadership statewide for 4-H yoga and healthy habits.

The UI Extension 4-H program in Ada County has a strong and lasting impact on youth, families and the broader community. Through hands-on learning in areas such as agriculture, STEM, leadership, and civic engagement, 4-H helps young people develop practical skills and confidence that prepare them for future careers and responsible citizenship. Youth in Ada County gain opportunities to explore interests, set goals and learn from both successes and challenges in a supportive environment. 4-H also strengthens the community by connecting youth with adult mentors, local businesses and service organizations. Projects and events such as fairs, community service activities and leadership workshops encourage youth to give back and develop a sense of responsibility to their community. Overall, 4-H in Ada County plays a vital role in building capable, confident, and caring young people while fostering a culture of learning, service and collaboration that benefits the entire county.

## 4-H in Ada County

The UI Extension 4-H program serves more than 440 youth in Ada County through 4-H clubs and group programming, supported by 125 dedicated adult volunteers and 29 active 4-H clubs. Together, youth completed 819 projects and participated in 4,914 hours of hands-on, research-based education that builds life skills, leadership and confidence. The program is growing and welcoming new participants, including 116 first-year 4-H members and 24 first-year adult volunteers, ensuring a strong future for 4-H in Ada County. At the same time,



long-term commitment remains a cornerstone of the program, with 28 volunteers serving for more than 10 years and providing valuable mentorship, stability and expertise.

The 4-H community outreach team reached 2,000 Ada and Canyon County youth, with most participants averaging 4-6 hours of 4-H activities. Youth participated in enrichment activities, such as healthy living, STEM, and college and career readiness, which are offered through the Together-Juntos program, based out of Nampa High School. Robotics is very popular, especially with gifted and talented youth from the West Ada School District. Youth also participated in different arts and crafts activities offered in partnership with several community partners such as Community Schools, Boise Parks and Recreation, Ada and Canyon School Districts, Housing Authorities and NeighborWorks Boise.

## On the Horizon

Morrisroe will work on a reducing textile waste project in partnership with the City of Boise, UI Extension, Valley County, and U of I professors. A presentation, textile repair toolkit and Extension bulletin were finalized and the team is developing a survey to move forward with an applied research project to measure the effectiveness of the presentation and/or toolkits to help individuals reduce their textile waste.

The 4-H team is excited to continue working with community partners to reach youth where they live and learn. The team will be working with Nampa High School to plan Juntos Family Engagement Nights and 4-H club activities based on the interests of youth. The program will continue to expand its reach by actively recruiting new adult volunteers and strengthening leadership capacity. Efforts will focus on building new clubs and enhancing community-based programming that meets the evolving needs and interests of local youth. By developing partnerships with local libraries and community agencies, 4-H will increase access to hands-on learning opportunities, provide safe and welcoming spaces for youth engagement, and reach new audiences throughout the county. These collaborative efforts will support sustainable program growth, enrich educational experiences, and further strengthen connections between youth, families, and the broader Ada County community.

## Advisory Board

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