

EXTENSION TRENDS: **BONNEVILLE COUNTY**

University of Idaho Extension, Bonneville County • www.uidaho.edu/bonneville



2025 By the Numbers

- **33,312** direct contacts
- **7,667** youth participants
- **132** volunteers
- **5,678** volunteer hours
- **\$125,550** extramural funding

Our Advisory Council

Special thanks to our volunteers who help shape programming and inform the work we do for UI Extension in Bonneville County: Stephanie Geraughty, Aubrie Kerr, Cheryl Anderson, Sherry Glick, Aliece Rasmussen, Martha Rigby, Phil Browning, Deanne Slaughter, Kristin Shurtz, Shauna Harris, Bonneville County 4-H Youth, Brian Andersen, Cathlena Burr, Catherine Dudley, Vikki Gerdes, Gary Lewis, Jennifer Austin, Julie Finup, Karen Foster, Karen Lugo, Leonard Dabb, Wendie Radford, Kathy Duplessis, Sandra Deatherage, Diana Skoy, Donna Whitham, Mark Whitham, Sally Tangren, Jody Cornilsen and Molly Brinkerhoff.

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2025 Impact

Extension health and wellbeing outreach has expanded in Bonneville County. Recent partnerships with People in Need Coalition and HappyVille Farms increased opportunities to reach new populations with nutrition education. A collaboration with Eastern Idaho Community Action Partnership expanded to include regularly scheduled employee wellness education on a variety of topics. A new collaboration with the 3B Juvenile Detention facility and continued collaboration with the Bonneville County Jail's IGNITE program and Haven shelter have afforded positive impact with underserved populations. Education on self-management, nutrition, fitness, mindfulness and gratitude have been well received.

Online hybrid courses have made agriculture and horticulture classes available to more people, both young and old. Master Gardener volunteers provided over 5,200 hours of service. Twenty-six farms participated in the Farm Financial Records and Farm Financial Analysis classes. Over 750 people receive gardening information and advice with the weekly Eastern Idaho Pest Alert newsletter. The bi-monthly Idaho Home Garden Tips online class provides a free resource to research-based, timely gardening information. Educator Ron Patterson continues to refine the programs and increase their outreach to the community.

4-H in Bonneville County

Thanks to an extensive network of caring adult 4-H volunteers, youth in Bonneville County have many opportunities to ignite and grow their sparks. The club program covers everything from robotics, cooking, sewing, livestock, fishing, shooting sports, and leadership to name a few. The UI Extension 4-H program in Bonneville County included 97 adult volunteers for the 2024-25 year. These volunteers not only facilitated club meetings, they also attended council meetings, helped at fair, participated in fundraisers, and provided day camps in various subjects. New projects taken on by volunteers this year include sport fishing, western heritage shooting sports, and pocket pets (snakes, goldfish, etc.). Through the various programs 4-H offers throughout the year, the program reached 9,916 direct contacts. Educator Paige Wray continued her focused efforts on expanding opportunities in healthy living, teen leadership, and youth voice. Youth from Bonneville County presented at the National 4-H Ignite Summit held in Washington D.C. to other youth throughout the country.

On the Horizon

Wray will continue to help the youth of Bonneville County thrive by refining educational offerings for both youth and adult volunteers that serve them, while providing opportunities to learn, lead and serve. Strong collaboration with the Alzheimer's Association are key in extending brain health and dementia awareness education. Associate educator Leslee Blanch will expand collaboration to include United Health Care on the Shoshone-Bannock Reservation to provide these and other wellness topics. Friends for Learning and YMCA continue to be venues for Blanch to offer regularly scheduled fitness classes with emphasis on brain, body and balance. Blanch looks forward to new partnerships with Idaho Falls Downtown Development Corporation and Greater Good Health Clinic. Patterson will continue to focus on providing timely, research-based horticultural and agricultural information that is accessible to all Bonneville County residents, regardless of age or working status.