

EXTENSION TRENDS: **CASSIA COUNTY**

University of Idaho Extension, Cassia County • www.uidaho.edu/cassia



2025 By the Numbers

- 12,157 direct contacts
- 7,832 youth participants
- 75 volunteers
- 552 volunteer hours
- \$19,000 extramural funding

Our Advisory Council

Special thanks to our volunteers who help shape programming and inform the work we do for UI Extension in Cassia County: Alan Branch, Amy Blauer, Cassandra Grisenti, Dixie Tate, Cassidy Whitaker, Janet Wright, Jeanne Allen, Marta Hernandez, Mike Knutz, Roxanne Beck, Sandra Miller, Trevor Stapleman, Alysann Alves, Erica Ewing, Heather Mortensen, Nancy Winmill, Scott Bail, Sharon Hardy and Tayce Robinson.

UI Extension Educators



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2025 Impact

Family and consumer science programs focused on bringing essential home food preservation workshops to Spanish speaking audiences. Through this program, three classes were taught in central Idaho to 45 participants. The first half of the classes consisted of verbal instruction on basic canning practices and the steps to using a boiling water canner. The second half of the class included hands-on application where participants went through the canning process to preserve salsa. Participants in the first three classes indicated they wanted a class on jams and jellies and pressure canning. These programs are being planned for 2026. With the assistance of 12 Master Food Safety Advisors, there were 21 pressure canner gauges tested by UI Extension in Cassia County and around 100 just in time food safety questions answered.

UI Extension also hosted a smoking and grilling program for 10 individuals. During the second session participants were able to see a live demonstration of a brisket trimming and preparation as well as preparing a pork chop and tri tip. Overall, participants' confidence, knowledge, and willingness to try new things while grilling and smoking increased significantly from their participation in this program.

4-H in Cassia County

The UI Extension, Cassia County 4-H program had a productive and engaging year, marked by growth in both youth programming and community partnerships. The Extension team remained dedicated to providing meaningful learning opportunities through classroom instruction and Sparks Afterschool programming, ensuring that young people across the county have consistent access to high-quality educational experiences. Collaborations with the Burley Public Library, College of Southern Idaho and local public schools continue to strengthen. These partnerships all Extension to expand STEM outreach and offer hands-on activities that spark curiosity, build confidence and encourage problem-solving among youth. A key priority was enhancing the soft skills that many young people need additional opportunities to develop. To support this goal, a public speaking contest was organized, featuring four categories: interviews, presentations, poster design and demonstrations. This event provided youth with a structured, supportive environment to practice communication, critical thinking and self-expression. 4-H members demonstrated outstanding participation and achievement during fair season. There continues to be strong engagement from youth and caring adult volunteers, and mentorship connections grow stronger each year. The UI Extension 4-H program remains committed to providing programs that empower youth, strengthen families and build community.

On the Horizon

The UI Extension, Cassia County 4-H program will focus on offering projects in day programs for youth on Fridays as well as during the summer months. FCS program will focus on teaching jams and jellies and pressure canning classes for Spanish speaking audiences.