

EXTENSION TRENDS: **BLAINE COUNTY**

University of Idaho Extension, Blaine County • www.uidaho.edu/blaine



2025 By the Numbers

- **2,468** direct contacts
- **861** youth participants
- **16** volunteers
- **246** volunteer hours
- **\$24,100** extramural funding

Our Advisory Council

Special thanks to our volunteers who help shape programming and inform the work we do for UI Extension in Blaine County: Lindsay Mollineaux, Gary Beck, Jason Parker, Nicolas and Pat Purdy, Melanie Weber, Susan Kranz, Tracy Green, Pamela Donoso and Aaron Bronson.

UI Extension Educators



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2025 Impact

A major highlight for UI Extension in Blaine County was the construction of a geodesic greenhouse at Hailey Elementary School, built with community volunteers. This collaborative effort transformed the space into a dynamic, hands-on learning laboratory for students and educators, fostering early engagement in science and local food production.

Educator Grant Loomis reinforced the crucial link between local agriculture and governance by hosting a well-attended farm tour for Blaine County officials, ensuring policy decisions are grounded in producer realities. His commitment to research was demonstrated through barley trials in Bellevue, which provided data-driven insights into nutrient management for optimizing crop yields and sustainability. On a broader scale, Loomis co-coordinated the state's SARE Professional Development Program, enhancing the capacity of agricultural professionals to guide sustainable projects statewide. He continued to offer education through the engaging Pest Friends integrated pest management board game, which empowers producers with effective, ecosystem-based pest management strategies. Continued support through site visits addressed producers' immediate concerns, solidifying Loomis' role as an essential resource for the county's agricultural success and resilience.

4-H in Blaine County

Associate Extension Educator Chandra Vaughan oversaw several 4-H summer projects: embryology, gardening, rocketry, drones, STEM activity with battery powered airplanes, crafting, cooking, photography, Wildlife Day Camp, and Livestock Education Day. UI Extension also worked with the Blaine County Fair Board and the Blaine County Market Animal Sales Committee for a successful fair. The U.S. Forest Service partnered for the ninth year in a row to offer Adventure Quest summer day camp at the Sawtooth National Recreation Area. Adventure Quest provides fun recreational pursuits combined with learning about the natural environment. All Things Wild is another four-day residential 4-H summer camp. The focus of this camp is hunter skills workshops which incorporate history, ethics, conservation, wildlife management, laws and regulations, survival, camping, orienteering, environment, and shooting skills in the disciplines of rifle, shotgun, and archery.

On the Horizon

Syngenta, a sustainability agriculture chemical company, is sponsoring a trip to Switzerland for Extension Educators Grant Loomis and Jason Thomas to increase the reach of Pest Friends. This trip will give them opportunities to network with producers in Switzerland and to share pest management practices and educational knowledge with one another.