

EXTENSION TRENDS: **BENEWAH COUNTY**

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2025 By the Numbers

- **9,958** direct contacts
- **177** youth participants
- **52** volunteers
- **4,018** volunteer hours
- **\$8,700** extramural funding

Our Advisory Council

Special thanks to our volunteers who help shape programming and inform the work we do for UI Extension in Benewah County.

UI Extension Educator



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2025 Impact

UI Extension efforts encompassed forestry programming for adults and hands-on programs during and after school for youth outside the traditional 4-H programs. Youth programming was centered around a middle school elective taught daily by Extension faculty and staff called E.A.R.T.H. Extension (Engineering, Agriculture, Range/Forestry, Technology and Horticulture) that brought hands-on STEM learning into the classroom daily. This year also featured the first annual Benewah County Farm to Table event showing 5th graders across the county where their food comes from as well as basic livestock husbandry skills.

On the forestry side, over 153 forest owners, loggers and professional foresters attended UI Extension forestry programs held in Benewah County, including Logger Education to Advance Professionalism Update, Identifying Idaho Trees, Landscaping for Fire Prevention, Successful Tree Planting, Calder Elementary School Forestry Day and an Idaho Master Forest Stewards field tour. Many Benewah County forest owners, loggers and foresters also attended programs held in adjacent panhandle counties. Certified UI Extension volunteers called Idaho Master Forest Stewards provided 515 hours of service to 5,022 forest owners and others in northern Idaho counties.

4-H in Benewah County

The UI Extension 4-H program in Benewah County was stronger than ever this past year. There were 177 active youth, 28 volunteers and 12 4-H clubs. The first annual Benewah County Livestock Judging contest was held at the Benewah County Fair following livestock judging classes taught throughout the year by the 4-H program coordinator. Prior to the fair there were market species clinics to prepare youth for showmanship, and those who were the top showman of each species at the fair won a showmanship belt buckle sponsored by local companies. In addition, there was a Livestock Skill-A-Thon for youth to showcase their knowledge of livestock prior to the fair. Another highlight was the first annual Benewah County archery contest. This contest included both 3D targets and a distance FITTA shoot. This event was well attended, and the hope is to host it during the fair next year as youth are excited to showcase their skills in front of a crowd. The contest will help recruit more members to participate in the project and hopefully compete in state and national events.

On the Horizon

New 2025 programs will continue into 2026 including the E.A.R.T.H. Extension elective as well as E.A.R.T.H. Pop Ups at more schools showcasing single day lessons focusing on hands-on learning that are easily integrated into other classrooms. The second annual Farm to Table event will be held for local 5th graders. Nursery propagations tours will be held throughout the region to bring landowners closer to the nurseries providing plant material for reforestation and restoration. The 4-H Ambassador program will be occurring in 2026 which supports strong teen leaders. New projects will be available for youth to participate in across the county as well as a continuation of new programs from last year including the livestock judging classes and contest, livestock skill-a-thon and the archery contest.