

EXTENSION TRENDS: **BOUNDARY COUNTY**

University of Idaho Extension, Boundary County • www.uidaho.edu/boundary



2025 By the Numbers

- 6,775 direct contacts
- 1,936 youth participants
- 94 volunteers
- 3,251 volunteer hours
- \$37,608 extramural funding

Our Advisory Council

Special thanks to our volunteers who help shape programming and inform the work we do for UI Extension in Boundary County: Laci Click, Kim Cushman, Tiffani Beggerly, Tim Bertling, Wally Cossairt, Shirley Anderson, Joan Poppino, Lynn Silva, Jan Bayer, Sarah Carver, Eli Pine, Carol Thompson, Dave Wenk, Alicia Alexander, Austin Terrell, Erik Olson, Ben Robertson, Dave Wattenbarger, Lester Pinkerton, Tom Daniel, Jennifer Dickison, Julie Newcomb and Edward Newcomb.

UI Extension Educators



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2025 Impact

UI Extension, Boundary County welcomed a new agriculture Extension educator who hosted several public classes on topics including garden pests, beneficial insects, garlic growing, composting, chainsaw safety, and season extension. Two events aimed at supporting grain farmers and teaching the public about agriculture were hosted—a cereal school and the annual variety trial crop tour. A study assessing canola soil health in Boundary County was performed, sampling seed and crop residue from eight different fields across the valley, to provide relevant data for farmers trying to manage their soils. A total of 80 forest owners, loggers and professional foresters attended UI Extension forestry programs held in Boundary County, including the Forest Insect and Disease Field Day, Thinning and Pruning Field Day and Backyard Forests. Currently, five Boundary County forest owners are certified UI Extension volunteers with the Idaho Master Forest Stewards. The FCS Extension educator helped facilitate and teach Get the Dish!, an educational series partnership between UI Extension, University of Georgia Extension, University of Tennessee Extension, Colorado State University Extension, and North Carolina Cooperative Extension, aimed at providing adults with essential food preparation and safety content. Eight lessons were offered in 2025 with 334 live attendees and 742 recorded views. In 2025, this program presented one state poster, one national presentation, one national webinar and one invited scholarly presentation.

4-H in Boundary County

Youth participated in a variety of hands-on day camps, including science, water, farming, art, cooking, and entomology, where they learned new skills, made friends, and explored their interests. The always-popular Clover Camp, themed gave the youngest members a fun introduction to 4-H through creativity and outdoor learning. Fair week was another fantastic success, with 230 members proudly showcasing their 4-H projects and months of hard work. Beyond camps and fair week, 4-H members stayed busy all year with project and club meetings, gaining hands-on experience and building leadership skills. From animal weigh-ins to community service projects, members showed dedication and responsibility at every step. Members also proudly represented 4-H in local parades and events, sharing their club spirit and community pride. Dedicated volunteers were celebrated during the 4-H Leaders Appreciation Banquet, where the first two Boundary County leaders to achieve 50 years of service were honored. The year wrapped up with the Awards Banquet and Carnival, recognizing 162 youth for their achievements and leadership.

On the Horizon

Master Gardener certification training will be taught in Boundary County in 2026. This series of classes will train new Master Gardener volunteers in a broad variety of horticulture-related topics. Speakers will include both UI Extension faculty as well as Boundary County farmers and gardeners. This will be the first time new Master Gardener training has been offered in Bonners Ferry since 2021. A new parenting program, Guiding Good Choices, will be offered for the first time this coming spring. This program is designed for families with children in 4th-8th grade and focuses on building strong family relationships and teaching skills to deal with peer pressure to decrease the incidence of risk-taking behaviors in teens. Another new program that will be offered is Money Habitudes, a personal finance management program. This hands-on class helps people understand and talk about their finances in a fun, constructive way. It also allows participants to pinpoint underlying financial habits, attitudes and motivations to make real behavior changes.