

EXTENSION TRENDS: **TETON COUNTY**

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2025 By the Numbers

- **3,941** direct contacts
- **490** youth participants
- **76** volunteers
- **1,300** volunteer hours
- **\$75,569** extramural funding

Our Advisory Council

Special thanks to our volunteers who help shape programming and inform the work we do for UI Extension in Teton County: Ron James, Hallie Poirer, Jordan Hoehnen, Wyatt Penfold, and Cindy Riegel.

UI Extension Educator



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2025 Impact

Small farm, horticulture and community development programming grew in 2025. The in-person High-Altitude Idaho Victory Garden course equipped 18 residents with practical skills, while Idaho Master Gardeners contributed over 100 hours of community service. Educator Jennifer Werlin taught pollinator, beekeeping, and seed-saving classes, presented Idaho's first high-altitude hybrid-format Master Gardener course at the 2025 National Association of County Agricultural Agents meeting, delivered Permaculture training to more than 40 clients, and facilitated the Teton Valley Beekeeping Association. Werlin's five-month sabbatical strengthened Extension's capacity to reach Spanish-speaking audiences. Intensive language study in Costa Rica and visits to agritourism farms informed the development of language access materials and improved cultural understanding. Werlin co-administered the Northwest and Rocky Mountain Regional Food Business Center grant for Idaho, contributing to statewide impact that reached 1,500 individuals, built 2,000 partnerships, and supported 500 businesses. She led five Teton Food and Farm Coalition meetings, supported the Agritourism in the Tetons project with a GIS-based directory, expanded the Teton Valley Farmers Market in Victor, and conducted a Rapid Market Assessment with 2,000 participants at the Driggs market. Her newspaper column reached over 22,000 readers.

4-H in Teton County

UI Extension continued a partnership with the school district's Above and Beyond the Classroom (ABC) afterschool program, which serves at-risk, low-income, and minority youth. Donations were secured to support 4-H higher education scholarships, and over time, Extension and 4-H facilities, which currently receive minimal funding. A year-round AmeriCorps service member was also secured until national funding was terminated in April. A 4-H intern was hired during the summer to support youth programming, including seven summer STEM day-camps. The 4-H program has secured funding for a part-time and quarter-time AmeriCorps member for the next fiscal year. These AmeriCorps positions expand staff capacity to deliver high quality 4-H programming. Volunteer development and strong partnerships with community organizations, including ABC, continue to expand the program's reach. These collaborations are essential for engaging at-risk and minority youth, increasing access to 4-H activities, and strengthening community involvement in positive youth development. In 2025, 278 youth were enrolled in 48 4-H clubs in Teton County. At the Teton Valley Fair, 673 4-H youth projects were submitted. Last year, \$6,500 was awarded in higher education scholarships to 4-H graduates. Over \$3,000 in 4-H enrollment scholarships were also awarded.

On the Horizon

Due to strong community demand, Werlin will offer a foundational beekeeping course, followed by two hands-on apiary sessions with local beekeepers. The Idaho Master Gardener course will be offered, with an emphasis on high-altitude, short-season gardening. Extension faculty will continue facilitating Teton Food and Farm Coalition meetings to strengthen the regional food system. They will also assist with educational days at Driggs Elementary School's farm and garden program and contribute to bilingual programming for dual-immersion students. The county will incorporate additional food system programming related to nutrition, health, and wellness. The 4-H program is expanding rapidly with new clubs and increased enrollment. In response, additional leaders and clubs are being added, particularly for Friday programming following Teton School District 401's transition to a four-day school week. Looking ahead, the UI Extension 4-H program will continue to recruit volunteers and increase capacity in high-demand project areas such as STEM, animal science, and life skills. The program will also emphasize leadership development, community service, and career readiness across all offerings.