TETON COUNTY

November 2026

EXTENSION UPDATE

UNIVERSITY OF IDAHO, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, AND IDAHO COUNTIES COOPERATING

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Farm-to-Fork News:

Protecting pollinators and beneficial insects after the garden season

By Jennifer Werlin, Extension Educator in Community Food Systems University of Idaho, Teton County Extension

While the growing season has ended for many gardeners and farmers, managing habitat for pollinators and beneficial insects is a year-round process. Purposeful habitat management and the use of native plants provide important food, shelter, and overwintering habitat for insects, birds, and other wildlife.

As temperatures drop, many insects seek shelter from predators and winter weather. According to the Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation, pollinators and beneficial insects—including native bees, butterflies, moths, beetles, and predatory wasps—rely on natural materials such as leaf litter, soil, dead wood, brush piles, and standing plant stems for nesting and overwintering. Many native bees nest underground, while others use hollow stems and cavities in wood.

The Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem is home to a diverse community of native pollinators, including bumble bees, solitary bees, butterflies, moths, and flies. Examples include the western bumble bee (Bombus occidentalis), Hunt's bumble bee (Bombus huntii), and central bumble bee (Bombus centralis). Native flies are also important pollinators, particularly in high-elevation alpine meadows. These insects help maintain healthy native plant communities, support wildlife, and contribute to the ecological health of our forests, meadows, and agricultural landscapes.

Leaving undisturbed ground and delaying garden cleanup and pruning until spring can help preserve important insect habitat. Consider these simple practices:

Continued on page 2

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Continued from page 1

- Leave the leaves. Fallen leaves provide insulation and shelter for overwintering butterflies, moths, and other insects. Leave them where they fall or move them to garden beds and beneath shrubs.

- Save the stems. Leave perennial flower stalks and seed heads standing through winter. Hollow and pith-filled stems provide nesting sites for native bees.

- Build a brush pile. Use fallen branches and untreated woody materials to create shelter for insects and wildlife.

- Provide water. Place stones or pebbles in shallow water dishes to give insects safe landing spots.

- Preserve bare ground. Many native bees nest underground, so maintain small, sunny patches of undisturbed soil.

- Rethink mulch. Avoid plastic mulch, landscape fabric, and thick layers of wood chips in areas where ground-nesting bees may be present.

Planting a diversity of native wildflowers, grasses, shrubs, and trees also supports pollinators by providing pollen, nectar, and habitat throughout the growing season.

When spring arrives, delay cleanup until temperatures warm and overwintering insects have had an opportunity to emerge. Consider cutting perennial stems at varied heights, approximately 8–24 inches above the ground, and leave the cut stems in place through the following growing season. They may contain They may contain developing insects or overwintering adults.

Finally, reduce unnecessary chemical fertilizers, herbicides, and insecticides. Consider integrated pest management practices to minimize unintended impacts on pollinators and other beneficial insects. A pollinator habitat sign can also help communicate your conservation efforts and inspire neighbors to create more wildlife-friendly landscapes.

Leaving some leaves, stems, and natural debris undisturbed helps provide the habitat pollinators and beneficial insects need to survive winter and return in spring.

Learn more at:

1) https://xerces.org/publications/fact-sheets/nesting-overwintering-habitat

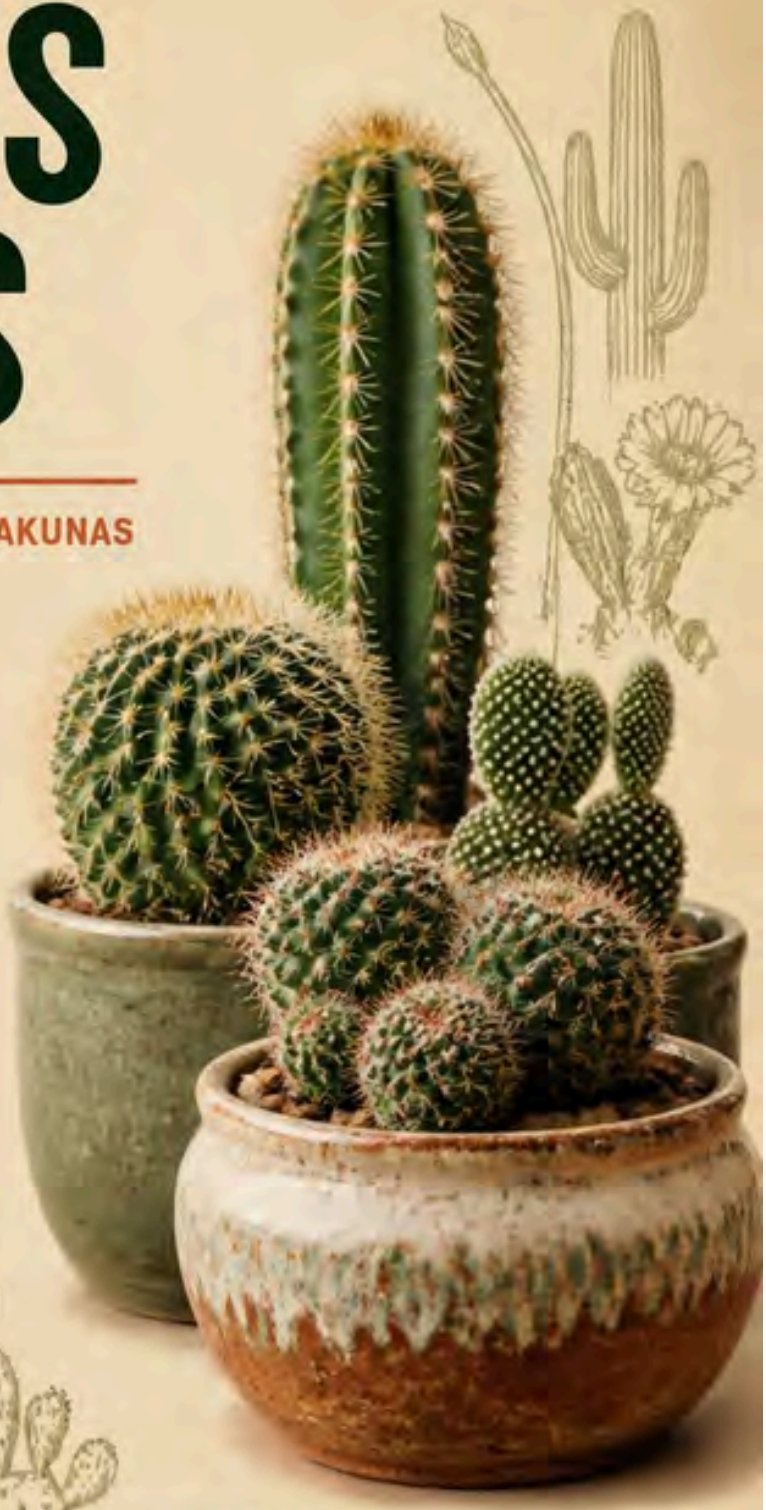
2)https://www.montana.edu/yellowstoneinsects/



CACTUS CLASS

LEARN FROM CACTUS GURU MARK BAKUNAS

Mark Bakunas, a Teton Valley Master Gardener will showcase his collection and teach proper care and propagation of cactuses.



- **Friday, December 11, 1pm-2pm**
- **At Mark's residence in Victor (location will be emailed)**
- **Class is open to the public**
- **All levels of experience welcome**

ADVANCED REGISTRATION REQUIRED

Registration Deadline: Wednesday, December 9th.

Fee: $5 suggested donation includes handouts and refreshments (cash or check to "Teton County").

Payment can be dropped off at 445 North Main Street, Driggs, or mailed to University of Idaho Extension, Teton County, 150 Courthouse Drive #208, brought to the class. Make Check payable to Teton County

After registration, we will email you with directions to his house.

CONTACT:

UI Extension 208-776-8235
jwerlin@uidaho.edu

University of Idaho Extension
TETON COUNTY

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IDAHO master GARDENER



Join the Teton Food & Farm Coalition

Strengthening Our Community Food System

Mission
To strengthen our community food system through connection and collaboration across the Teton region.

About TFFC
The Teton Food & Farm Coalition grew from grassroots meetings in 2016, bringing together chefs, farmers, and community members focused on local food initiatives. Today, we operate as a regional coalition connecting food system efforts on both sides of Teton Pass in Wyoming and Idaho. As a collaborative network of businesses, farmers, ranchers, nonprofits, and engaged individuals, we believe in building social and economic resilience across our community.

Get Involved
Who can join? Anyone is welcome!

When we meet: 4th Wednesday of each month (September-May)

Next Meeting: November 18 , 12-1 pm via Zoom (meeting will focus on commissary kitchens)

Register: www.tetonfoodfarmcoalition.org



University of Idaho Extension Publications & Resources

Small Farm and Ranch Webinars

https://www.cultivatingsuccess.org/recordedwebinars

Cultivating Success Webinar Highlight - Unpacking and Planning for the True Costs of Owning and Leasing Farmland

Land seekers often base their decision on whether they can afford to lease or buy farmland on the cost of the lease payment or the price of the land for sale. However, there are many other costs associated with land tenure. This presentation unpacks the sometimes hidden costs of land tenure and provide tools helpful in determining if you can afford land to farm.

Cultivating Success Recorded Webinars

https://www.youtube.com/@cultivatingsuccessidaho7750

Access the full catalog of over 100 Cultivating Success Webinars.

University of Idaho Extension Livestock YouTube Channel

https://www.youtube.com/@universityofidahoextension2590

This YouTube channel has educational videos and recorded webinars on many different livestock topics. This channel is where the monthly Sheep & Goat Webinar recordings are hosted.

UI Rangeland Center YouTube Channel

https://www.youtube.com/@uirangelandcenter

The University of Idaho Rangeland Center is an interdisciplinary team of researchers and educators, from seven UI departments, three colleges and University of Idaho Extension sites, which conducts research and outreach focused on rangelands. Our partnerships with other individuals, agencies, and organizations enhance our ability to serve those who manage and enjoy rangelands in Idaho and the western region of the United States.

The Rangeland Center is here to use science to find long-term solutions for managing rangelands.



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MEATS FIELD DAY

And Carcass Contest

Come learn about all species and put your skills to the test in the Meats Judging & ID contest!

Carcass Contest - We will be going over beef carcass results for Clearwater, Latah, Lewis, Idaho and Nez Perce County fair participants.

NOVEMBER 7, 2026 AT THE UNIVERSITY OF IDAHO

SCHEDULE FOR THE DAY:

8:30 AM - Check-In

9:00 AM - Welcome

9:15 to 11:30 AM - Rotations

- Meats Judging
- Meats Cooking Lesson
- Meats Cutting Demonstration

11:30 AM - Lunch & Carcass Contest Results

- Lunch Provided: Vandal Dogs & Fixings

12:15 PM - Meats Judging Contest

1:30 PM - Judging Contest Results

2:00 PM - Vandal Football Kickoff!

SCAN THE QR CODE TO REGISTER!

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BALANCE IN THE EQUINE HOOF

FARRIER, VETERINARIAN, AND EQUINE OWNER WORKSHOP

November 19, 2026 | 6:00-8:30 PM

UI Extension, Caribou County | 117 West 1st North, Grace, Idaho

Speakers: Danny Smith and Dr. Karl Hoopes

Creating balance in the equine hoof often requires the combined effort of the owner, the farrier and the veterinarian. The event will include:

- Lectures on balance of the equine lower limb, confirmation, evaluation, diagnostic x-rays, and farrier veterinary relationship.
- Demonstration of farrier and veterinarians working together.
- Hands on opportunities to work together to evaluate, diagnose and treat equine hoof imbalance

$50 pre-registration

$65 at the door

Dinner included

2 CE hours for veterinarians

REGISTRATION FORM:

University of Idaho Extension
Caribou County

Purpose

University of Idaho Extension offers the Master Food Safety Advisor Program (*aka Master Food Preserver*) to teach participants how to safely preserve high-quality foods. After completion of the coursework, participants work with the community to complete their volunteer time (see Phase 2—Volunteer Service). This is a great opportunity to share your knowledge.



Who can apply?

- Anyone with an interest in food preservation and food safety
- Anyone with little to no food preservation experience
- Anyone interested in expanding and sharing their knowledge with others
- Anyone who enjoys being involved in their community
- Residents who live in Lemhi, Custer, Butte, Clark, Freemont, Jefferson, Madison, Teton, Bonneville, Bingham, Bannock, Caribou, Franklin or Bear Lake Counties.

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Questions?

University of Idaho, Jefferson County Extension
Deanna Poulsen, FCS Extension Educator
and MFSA Program Coordinator
210 Courthouse Way, Suite 180
Rigby, Idaho 83442
(208) 745-6685
dpoulsen@uidaho.edu

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MASTER
FOOD SAFETY ADVISOR
University of Idaho Extension

Learn or Enhance your Food Preservation Skills



Courses taught by:

Deanna Poulsen

Jefferson County Extension Educator

Guest presenters include extension educators from surrounding counties in Eastern Idaho: Katie McFarland, Lance Hanson, Laura Sant, Abby May and Jenifer Reader, along with other Master Food Preservers

Training Phases

Phase 1—Select your Course Options
Deanna Poulsen, Family & Consumer Sciences Extension Educator and educators from surrounding counties, will teach the course. The in-person classes will be held at the Jefferson County Extension Office for 7 weeks, and include lecture/discussion/hands-on preservation labs to enhance your learning experience.

Topics include:
- Canning High-Acid Foods (fruit and tomatoes)
- Canning Low-Acid Foods (meats and vegetables)
- Jams, jellies, and preserves
- Pickling
- Dehydration
- Food Safety
- Freezing Methods
- Teaching tips and aids
- Volunteering success

Phase 2—Volunteer Service*
Participants are required to complete 30 hours of volunteer service, which can be completed in their county of residence. Opportunities include answering food safety questions via phone, assisting with and/or teaching classes, staffing booths, and making displays.

When should I apply?

Online Application Deadline:
December 11th, 2026

In-Person Course

Participants attend discussion, demonstration and labs at the Jefferson County Extension Office From Jan 14-Feb 25, 2027. They will complete 30 hours of volunteer service in their respective communities. All participants in this course are expected to attend each week in person.

Hybrid Course

Participants attend discussion only on zoom, at the same time as the In-Person Course.

Demonstrations and labs will be combined for two Saturdays (Jan 30 and Feb 20, 2027) with 10 hour labs each Saturday. Participants will still complete 30 hours of volunteer service in their respective communities.

Online Course

At a TBD date (March/April) **Participants will join the discussion on zoom, followed by virtual lab instruction.** The lab portions will be conducted with an instructor on zoom to demonstrate and answer questions for that 3-hour lab. Attendance an participation is crucial.

Participants will still complete 30 hours of volunteer service in their respective communities.

In-Person & Hybrid Class options
Jefferson County Annex Classroom (upstairs)
210 Courthouse Way, Rigby, Idaho 83442
Thursdays, from 9 am—3:00 pm, on Jan 14, 21, 28 and Feb 4, 11, 18 & 25, 2027.

In-Person & Hybrid Course Fee: $285
(with Volunteer time)

$200 fee includes a handbook, printed reference materials, ingredients and lab supplies, and 40 hours of instruction time with the hands-on labs.

*If participants are unable to complete the 30 hours of volunteer service or choose to complete only phase 1, participants will be charged an additional $100. Preference will be given to individuals interested in completing both phases of the course.



Online Course Fee: $120
(with Volunteer time)

$120 fee includes a handbook, printed reference materials, and 40 hours of online instruction time. Participants will need to provide their own produce and jars for lab experience. Canning equipment may be checked out through the University of Idaho Canning Essentials program at no extra expense to participant. You will receive specific instructions upon application acceptance.

TETON COUNTY 4-H
Sewing Club Day Camp



SEW IT YOURSELF!

Ages 8–18 · Create with printed holiday fabrics

WHEN
Friday, December 4, 2026 · 1–3 PM

WHERE
University of Idaho Extension
445 N. Main, Driggs

CALL
(208) 776-8235

INCLUDED
All supplies and equipment



$42.00

Enroll by December 3rd at
https://www.eventbrite.com/e/teton-county-4-h-sewing-club-day-camp-tickets-2004442992953?aff=oddtdtcreator

Scan to Enroll

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RUES ABC AFTER SCHOOL 4-H CLUB

THURSDAYS 4-5:30 PM

PICK UP UI EXTENSION 445 N. MAIN DRIGGS

MEETING DATES:
NOVEMBER 5TH, 19TH
DECEMBER 3RD, 17TH
JANUARY 7TH, 21ST
FEBRUARY 4TH, 18TH
MARCH 4TH, 18TH
APRIL 15TH, 29TH
MAY 6TH, 20TH



Cooking • Art & Crafting
Chicken Life Cycle
Vet Science • And more!

EXPLORE CREATE DISCOVER

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BEEKEEPING CLUB
CLUB DE APICULTRA
SIGN UP AT
4H.ZSUITE.ORG
REGÍSTRESE
EN 4H.ZSUITE.ORG
STARTS NOVEMBER 12, 2026 4:15-5:15PM
COMIENZA EL 12 DE NOVIEMBRE DE 2026 4:15-5:15PM
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EL INGLÉS ES EL IDIOMA OFICIAL DE ESTE CONTENIDO. FUE TRADUCIDO USANDO IA.

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4-H Yoga & Mindfulness Club

4-H Club de Yoga y Mindfulness

Starting November 10th
Tuesdays through January; 4:15-5:00pm
A partir del 10 de Noviembre
Martes a Enero; 4:15-5:00pm

University of Idaho Extension Office
445 N Main St, Driggs, ID





Open to youth ages 5-18
Limited yoga mats will be available.
Please bring a yoga mat if possible.
4-H enrollment is $75 for one or more clubs;
plus $5 yoga club fee
Sign up in October at 4h.Zsuite.org
www.uidaho.edu/teton

Jennifer Werlin
jwerlin@uidaho.edu
(208) 776-8235

Abierto a jóvenes de 5 a 18 años
Las alfombras de yoga limitadas estarán disponibles. Por favor traiga una esterilla de yoga si es posible. La inscripción 4-H es de $ 75 para uno o más clubes;
Más $5 de cuota de club de yoga
Regístrate en octubre en 4h.Zsuite.org

¡Becas Disponibles!

The University of Idaho does not discriminate in education or employment on the basis of human differences, as required by state and federal laws. Anyone attending our program(s) that requires auxiliary aids or services should contact teton@uidaho.edu or 208-776-8235 at least two weeks prior to the event.

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El inglés es el idioma oficial de este contenido. Traducida usando AI.

TETON COUNTY 4-H STEAM CLUB

2026-2027 MEETING SCHEDULE

CLUB MEETINGS

Fridays, 10 AM-12 PM:

November 13, 20;
December 4, 11, 18;
January 8, 15, 22, 29;
February 5, 12, 19, 26;
March 5, 12, 19, 26.



STATE AG-ROBOTICS CHALLENGE

Fridays, 10 AM-1 PM:

April 16, 23, 30;
May 7, 21, 28;
June 4, 18, 25;
July 2, 8 Wednesday, July 7

COMPETITION

Saturday, July 10, 9 AM-2 PM.

Enroll at 4h.zsuite.org

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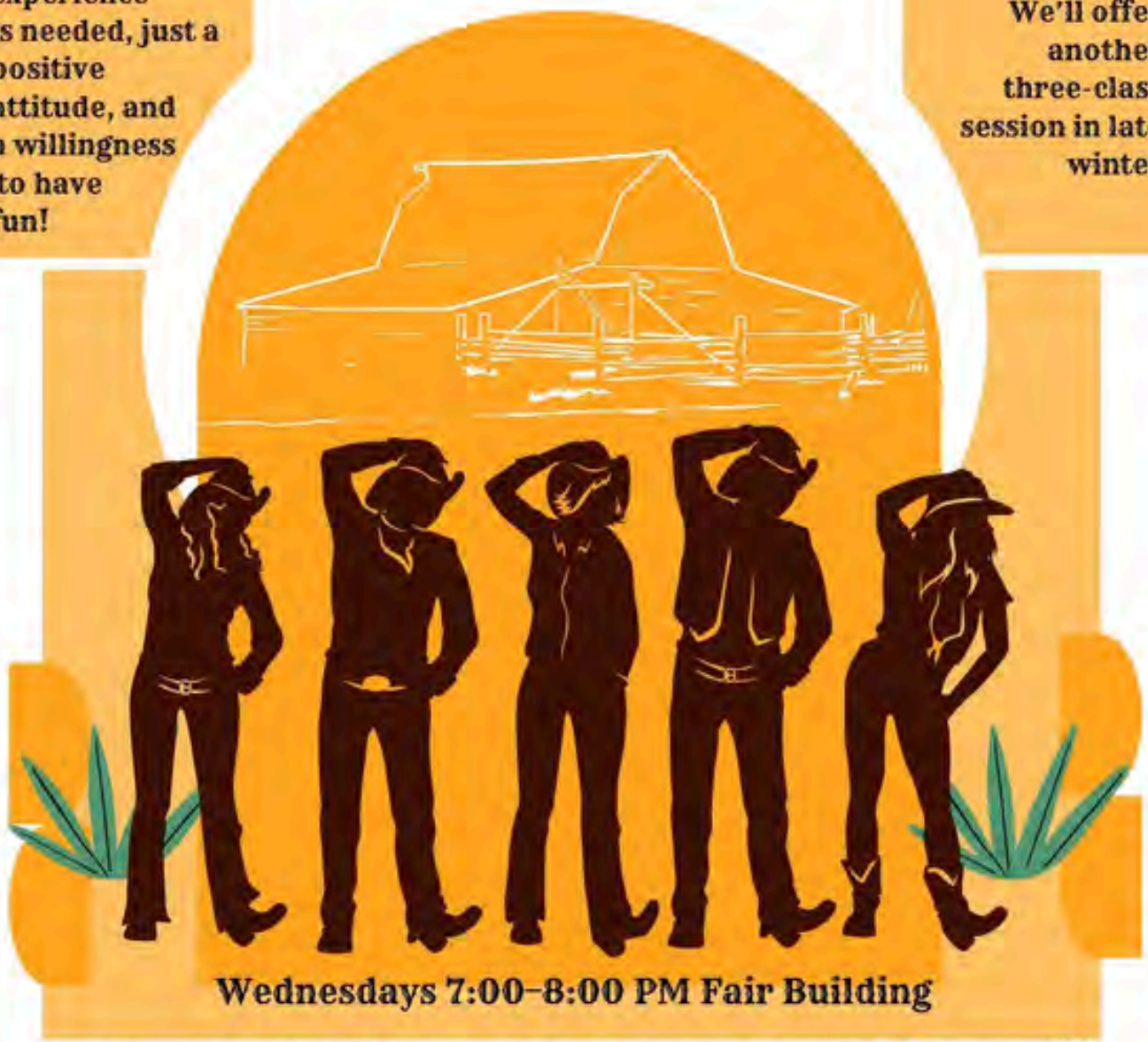
Line Dancing 4-H Club

4-H club for boys and girls 8-18. want to learn some country moves? The final class will celebrate with a Boot Scootin' Dance Party! Wear what you like, boots are encouraged for the fun of it!

learn and master one or two line dances, building skills and confidence as you go.
No dance experience is needed, just a positive attitude, and a willingness to have fun!

Sign up at 4H.zsuite.org

Fall Sessions | 7:00–8:00 PM Fair Building
October 14
October 28
November 11
We'll offer another three-class session in late winter

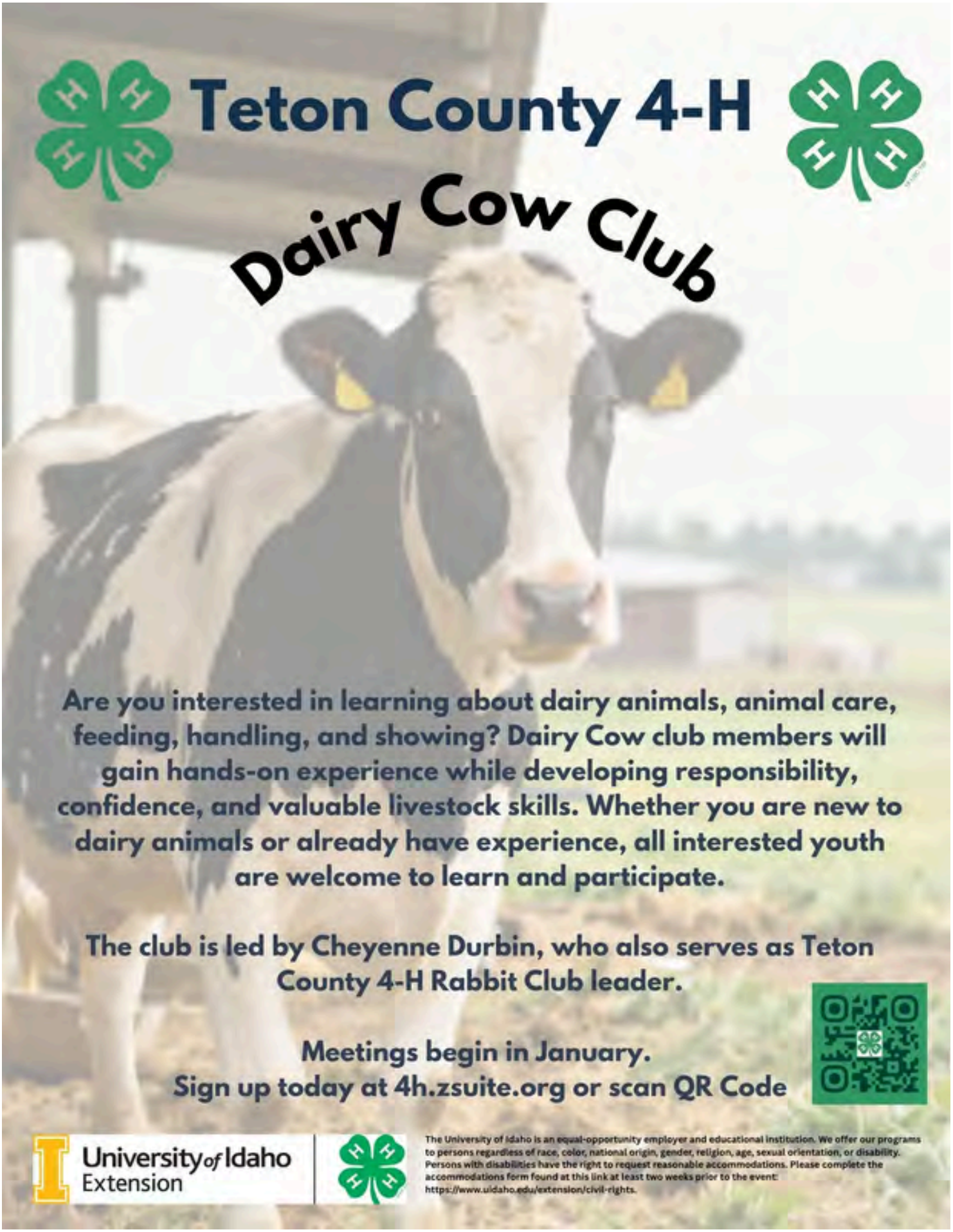


Wednesdays 7:00–8:00 PM Fair Building

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4-H BARRELL RACING CLUB
JOIN TODAY AT ZSUITE.ORG


Teton County 4-H
Dairy Cow Club
Are you interested in learning about dairy animals, animal care, feeding, handling, and showing? Dairy Cow club members will gain hands-on experience while developing responsibility, confidence, and valuable livestock skills. Whether you are new to dairy animals or already have experience, all interested youth are welcome to learn and participate.
The club is led by Cheyenne Durbin, who also serves as Teton County 4-H Rabbit Club leader.
Meetings begin in January.
Sign up today at 4h.zsuite.org or scan QR Code
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IDAHO 4-H KNOW YOUR GOVERNMENT *Conference*



February 13-15, 2027
Boise, Idaho

YOUTH EXPERIENCE

Open to youth in grades 8 to 10
(2 years total unless selected to serve on the Steering Committee)

Participants in the Legislative Workshop learn about the state government decision-making process by participating in mock committee meetings with guidance from legislators at the Capitol, then participating in a mock legislative session.

Participants in the Judicial Workshop learn about the Idaho court system, how laws affect teenagers, and participate in mock trials held at the Ada County courthouse. They take tours of the Supreme Court building and visit with judges and attorneys.

- Learn how the state government decision-making process works.
- Learn how teens can participate politically to influence state government.

Action to improve communities requires knowledge of government and how it works. Join 4-H'ers from across the state to see our government in action.

MISSION

Provide 4-H members with an opportunity to become knowledgeable about the decision-making process in their communities and state. This strengthens the connection between youth and our political system.

GET INVOLVED!

Registration opens December 1st in ZSuite Events.

For more information about the Know Your Government Conference:

REGISTRATION OPENS DECEMBER 1 in ZSuite Events.

Delegates who have attended for two years and are currently in 9th or 10th grade can apply to become members of the Know Your Government Steering Committee. The following positions *(the numbers indicate the number of positions needed) are selected each year:*

- Legislators (6)
- Judges (6)
- Reporters (8)
- Chief Justice (1)
- Speaker of the House (1)
- Social Media/Video Producer (1)
- News Editor (1)

Mike Knutz
Conference Chair
208-736-3608
mknutz@uidaho.edu

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2026-27 State Teen Events

https://www.uidaho.edu/extension/4h/events

FEB. 13-15 2027 — BOISE — Cost $230
Know Your Government Conference
Registration opens Dec. 1, 2026
Youth in grades 8-10 may attend two years total

JUNE 21-24 2027 — MOSCOW — Cost $325
State Teen Association Convention
Registration opens April 15, 2027
Youth in grades 8-12

OCT. TBA — TBA — Cost $215
Idaho 4-H LEAD Summit
Registration opens August 1, 2027
Youth in grades 8-12

MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:
Mike Knutz mknutz@uidaho.edu
Teresa Tverdy ttverdy@uidaho.edu

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Learn Everywhere with 4-H Newsletter

University of Idaho Extension

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2027-28 National Teen Events

www.uidaho.edu/extension/4h/events
Additional costs for airfare

MARCH TBA 2028 — WASHINGTON, DC
Ignite by 4-H
Registration $1,400 open June 1-July 1, 2027
Youth must be at least 14 by January 1 of year of event
Some partial scholarships available

SEPT 24-28, 2027 — MADISON, WI
National 4-H Dairy Conference
Registration $1,000 open April 15-July 1, 2027
Must be at least 15 by January 1 and have two years of Dairy 4-H Projects

NOV 25-30, 2027 — ATLANTA, GA
National 4-H Congress
Registration $1,200 open May 15-July 15, 2027
Youth in grades 10-12

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:
Mike Knutz mknutz@uidaho.edu
Teresa Tverdy ttverdy@uidaho.edu



Learn Everywhere with 4-H

OPEN FOR FALL TERM

EARN A SCHOOL CREDIT THROUGH YOUR 4-H EXPERIENCE

REGISTER NOW

learneverywhere@uidaho.edu

University of Idaho Extension



Background

On August 26, 2026, Idaho joined a historic $17.1 billion multistate settlement with Meta Platforms Inc., one of the largest consumer protection settlements in U.S. history. Through the agreement, Idaho will receive between $89.2 million and $127.7 million over the next 10 years.

What is "In real life"

"In real life" (IRL) opportunities are ones where young people build skills, make friends, and grow. IRL is a powerful antidote to the harms of digital media.

The Idaho Out-of-School Network is the state affiliate for Fund IRL Idaho, which is part of *Fund IRL National*. Fund IRL works to ensure that social media settlement funds from current technology lawsuits can support high-quality out-of-school time (OST) programs. These programs provide meaningful, in-real-life activities and opportunities that promote youth mental health, well-being, connection, and healthy development.

What this means

Social media settlement funding could represent a significant opportunity to invest in what young people need most. History shows settlement funds do not automatically reach youth-serving programs without intentional planning.

Fund IRL is working to ensure these resources are directed with clear guardrails, transparency, and accountability so that they reach those most impacted by the harms of social media – young people – and are prioritized to support their well-being.

Why this matters

Young people are seeking real-world connection, belonging, and engaging experiences. Afterschool, summer, service, mentoring, outdoors, sports, arts, and mental health programs provide the kinds of environments where young people can grow and experience joy. In these spaces, they build relationships, develop skills, and feel confident and supported as they find their footing in the world.

Idaho's settlement funds could be invested in programs and services that provide real-world connection, mentorship, and opportunity to support youth well-being.

Idaho Teens Host an In Real Life Event! $250 stipends available. See form for details



Learn more

Host an Event sign up now

Idaho Hosts an In Real Life Event! $250 stipends available.

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Conserve with Crayons is offering free, recurring coloring contests for children ages 18 and under across the United States, focused on wildlife, habitats, and conservation. The first contest began November 1st and focuses on wetland conservation!

The mission is to educate and inspire children through creative, cross-curricular learning that combines art, science, and language arts. Each contest includes a fact sheet to help guide participants, additional educational resources for parents, and educators on our website, and $1,500 in prizes.

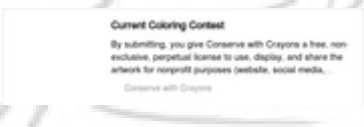
Click the link below for the first contest templates for you, or to share. You can find them on our current contest page!
at https://www.conservewithcrayons.org/current-contest

Children ages 5 and under will color a different template than ages 6-18. After kids are done coloring they can submit their artwork on the website.

Contests will take place every three months, with upcoming themes focused on forests, grasslands, and rivers. You can find offers for free member-only activities and contests as well as the coloring contests. The goal is to keep conservation topics front of mind throughout the year!

To receive updates about upcoming contests, sign up for a free membership or follow on social media.

Thank you for helping us inspire the next generation of conservationists!



Click or scan to go to contest page

HOLIDAY GIFT GUIDE

National 4-H



Are You Ready For The Holidays? What About Beyond Ready? Make your list, check it twice, and give back to 4-H by shopping festive finds and gifts that help young people become Beyond Ready!



Tractor Supply: A Little Something For The Tree, A Little Something For Under It!
Celebrate the season while supporting 4-H through Tractor Supply.
Deck the Halls! The 2026 4-H ornaments are here! Get yours before they're gone!
Hats Off to the Holidays! Give the gift of 4-H spirit with Outdoor Caps and hats.
Round Up a Little Holiday Cheer!
November 27–December 13, round up your purchase or donate at checkout to support local 4-H programs.



Starlink + Tractor Supply: Connecting Communities by Closing the Digital Divide
Activate an eligible Starlink service at Tractor Supply through November 15 and Starlink will donate the value of your first month of service to support 4-H youth.



Twisted X: Put Your Best Foot Forward This Holiday Season!
6% of every Twisted X 4-H Collection purchase supports 4-H nationwide.



eBay: Put Giving On Your Holiday Shopping List!
From December 6–12, 4-H will be the featured charity partner on eBay! At checkout, simply elect to donate $1, $2, $5, or $10, and your funds will directly support 4-H.



Shop 4-H: All Wrapped Up In the 4-H Spirit!
From festive apparel to gifts and accessories, the Shop 4-H Holiday Collection has something for every 4-H fan. Santa has his signature look—why shouldn't you?

EXTENSION UPDATE

UPCOMING EVENTS

Registration 4-H 2026-2027 year
Now Open **4h.zsuite.org**

Teton Farm and Coalition meeting
November 18th 12am-1 pm
www.tetonfoodfarmcoalition.org

Cactus Class
Friday, December 11, 1-2 pm
Register: By December 9 (see Flyer Page 3)

Fair Board Meeting
November 18, 7 pm
Teton County, ID Courthouse

Teton County 4-H Sewing Day Camp
Friday December 4
Register: (See Page 9)



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