

EXTENSION TRENDS: **CASSIA COUNTY**

University of Idaho Extension, Cassia County • www.uidaho.edu/cassia



2022 By the Numbers

- **10,085** direct contacts
- **7,102** youth participants
- **72** volunteers
- **1,200** volunteer hours
- **\$19,000** extramural funding

Our Advisory Council

Special thanks to our volunteers who help shape programming and inform the work we do for UI Extension in Cassia County: Sharon Hardy, Rebbi Burdett, Heather Mortensen, Amy Christopherson, Jeannie Allen, Ryan Taylor, Nancy Kunau, Beverly Searle, Penne Main, Judge Hodges, Al Barrus and Brandy Taylor.

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2022 Impact

A high number of food preservers in central Idaho requires trained volunteers to teach food safety and food preservation practices. There are 10 Master Food Safety Advisors in the Central District teaching classes, testing canning equipment and answering critical food safety/food preservation questions.

Healthy Meals for Busy Families was developed to encourage more Idahoans to prepare meals at home. The class covered nutrition and food safety for slow cooker meals, freezer meals and 20–30-minute meals. Smoking and Grilling classes are held to help community members utilize different cuts of meat by teaching elements of meat science, including picking and preparing the right cut and learning innovative cooking methods.

A statewide farm management team has established a three-stage farm management curriculum on Quickbooks, farm and ranch financial management and succession planning. Participants in these classes will have help from the basics of record keeping to the start of a full-blown succession/transition plan. Cover crop research promotes the value of cover crops for soil health and measures the value of several different cover crop species for use in the area. Other cover crop research looks at termination strategies for cover crops to not allow the cover crops to become weed problems in the future.

An ARPA grant allowed for the purchase of STEM supplies for the 4-H program. An Americorps volunteer supported several large community events and gave youth and parents an opportunity to experience a 4-H STEM take-away project. The 4-H program supports the Cassia County School District through the SPARK afterschool programming and involvement in the 4th grade history day. The Food, Fun and Fitness program is offered in the summer, reaching many underserved youth, and the 4-H program is now working with the library on weekly summer STEM activities.

4-H in Cassia County

The Cassia County 4-H program is centered on traditional 4-H club programming but partnerships in the community have allowed the 4-H program to reach new audiences.

Livestock participation continues to increase with 344 completed projects in seven species. The sale of these livestock totaled \$1,273,070. On average, each youth received over \$2,661 above the cost of the animal for use in saving for college and the next stage of life.

4-H teen leadership is a major focus in Idaho. In 2020, a committee of educators and volunteers developed Leadership NOW! Advanced Leadership Development to provide intentional leadership development and education for 4-H teens. A Zoom-based program was created that teens from across Idaho participate in, with each session focusing on a different aspect of leadership. Participants also complete a service-learning project to address a need in their community.

On the Horizon

STEAM and SPARK programming with the Cassia County School District will continue and plans are underway to expand into additional classrooms. Day camps will continue in rural communities, with hopes to expand into Declo, Elba and Oakley. An Americorps volunteer will help with the expansion of STEM outreach activities to build on last summers' success. Kits in FCS project areas will continue to be developed so club volunteers and families can check them out to participate in 4H. These are extremely helpful in the rural communities.