

EXTENSION TRENDS: **ELMORE COUNTY**

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2021 By the Numbers

- **1,178** direct contacts
- **229** youth participants
- **71** volunteers
- **2,580** volunteer hours
- **\$69,760** extramural funding

Our Advisory Council

Special thanks to our volunteers who help shape programming and inform the work we do for UI Extension in Elmore County: Justin Wootan, Jared Zito, Billy Wolfe, Kya Vines-Bideganeta, Jason Nettleton, Jennifer Gilbert, Jeff Blanksma, Billy Galloska and Julie Lisle.

UI Extension Educator



Brad Stokes
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2021 Impact

Educator Brad Stokes organizes a yearly pesticide recertification course for agricultural and horticultural professionals in Elmore County. He also bridges the gap with various research projects that are directly applicable to local growers and their crops. Stokes and his program assistant help judge the National Corn Yield Contest every fall for several county corn grain producers and he responds to various agricultural and ranching related questions across the county to help solve real-world problems in Elmore County.

Stokes recruited, taught and developed an Idaho Master Gardener class of eight individuals in spring 2021. Master Gardeners for 2023 will be recruited starting in mid-summer of 2022. Master Gardeners are solely involved in planting, growing and managing the Community Garden in Mountain Home. The majority of food and fresh produce is donated back into the community. Stokes responds to various horticultural and insect/arthropod related questions in the community and responds to questions through UI Extension's Idaho Insect Identification website.

Stokes oversees the Elmore County 4-H program, coordinated by Nadine Cook, and expanded the shooting sports program to include shotgun, pistol and rifle projects and adult certified leaders. A part-time 4-H program assistant, Jami Davis, was hired to expand programming to include after-school projects, including a five-week entomology science course, drone classes and sewing for youth.

4-H in Elmore County

UI Extension, Elmore County's 4-H program encompasses 237 youth in various traditional and innovative projects. Youth can choose from 29 projects led by 4-H leaders in over 20 clubs throughout Elmore County. The 4-H program is led by Nadine Cook who has been a remarkable asset for program implementation, youth members and 4-H leader development and training. Shooting sports continues to be a popular attraction, as well as the majority of traditional 4-H livestock projects. The afterschool 4-H programming encompasses sewing, entomology science and visual arts to provide additional opportunities.

Through the National 4-H Council National Mentoring Program (NMP 11) grant, Stokes oversees Mountain Home Air Force Base programming and Jami Davis serves as site coordinator. Davis provides mentor/mentee matching for 60 youth and 15 mentors using healthy living curriculum.

All Elmore County youth programs have continued to see tremendous success with amazing community and county support.

On the Horizon

Stokes has started the second bee sample for the Elmore County Bee Survey Project to complete a four-year study on native and introduced bee species in Elmore County. The survey project encompasses a 100-plus mile trap set across the majority of Elmore County, including a small portion of Owyhee County. A study of this magnitude scientifically documents the current species found and explores hypotheses concerning the richness of bee species in the county for the future.