

# EXTENSION TRENDS: **JEROME COUNTY**

University of Idaho Extension, Jerome County • [www.uidaho.edu/jerome](http://www.uidaho.edu/jerome)



## 2022 By the Numbers

- **2,201** direct contacts
- **696** youth participants
- **34** volunteers
- **434** volunteer hours
- **\$277,283** extramural funding

## Our Advisory Council

Special thanks to our volunteers who help shape programming and inform the work we do for UI Extension in Jerome County: Debbie Hartley, Laurie Lickley, Michelle Emerson, Charles Howell, Ben Crouch, John Crozier, Gary Warr, Becky Warr, Jack Nelson, Brady Fife, Tianna Fife, Jim Patrick, Clark Kauffman, Roger Wells, Kim Lickley, Mike Knutz, Kyli Gough, Amy Worthington, Doug Huettig, Dara Carpenter, Andrea Wiesenmeyer and Eddee Gallegos.

## UI Extension Educators



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## 2022 Impact

Regenerative agriculture is a term used to describe practices which help producers reduce chemical inputs and improve the soil by adopting practices focused on reducing tillage and increasing the use of cover cropping and livestock integration. Educator Steven Hines' programming focuses specifically on practical cover cropping methods that producers can adopt. He has also been growing a cover crop species demonstration garden to increase knowledge of individual species to make informed recommendations to growers as they work to adopt cover crops. The food production industry is increasingly requiring producers to grow their crops in a sustainable manner and Hines' work is helping them understand ways they can grow sustainably and profitably.

The number of food pantry guests is increasing in Jerome County, and the interest in home food preservation is growing. Educator Gretchen Manker collaborated with fellow Central District Family and Consumer Sciences educators and local food pantry managers and community partners to further food preservation education for underserved and low-income audiences through Preserve the Abundance with Purpose. Thanks to generous donations of community partners, each participant received a boiling water canner and canning starter kit. A total of thirty-eight community members attended the class with a community volunteer interpreting for 24 Spanish speakers. Participants learned to reduce food waste, improve food storage practices and improve variety in their diet with home preserved foods.

## 4-H in Jerome County

The Jerome County 4-H Program had 268 youth participating in financial planning, sewing, STEAM, leadership and animal projects, with 34 leaders from 15 clubs. With a generous donation from the County Commissioners, one youth attended the National 4-H Congress in Atlanta, Georgia. Community assessments in Jerome County show that Latinx families want support for their children in the areas of academic success with a focus on college and career readiness. To increase high school graduation rates and support Latinx graduates in attending post-secondary education, the Juntos program was implemented in the Jerome School District in 2018 as a for-credit elective class offered during the regular school day with bi-weekly 4-H club meetings. In the spring semester of 2022, Juntos Jerome County served 71 Jerome High School students from 9-12 grades and celebrated the graduation of 39 students from the first cohort with an 85% graduation rate.

## On the Horizon

Hines is a co-lead on the UI Extension portion of the \$55 million Climate Smart Agriculture grant received in fall 2022. He is looking forward to working with the many agency partners on the grant to help producers adopt climate smart practices, track their progress and report the results at meetings and through publication. He is also working with a statewide team of UI Extension educators who have developed a Farm and Ranch Succession program which will be delivered statewide for the first time.

Additional funding from AgWest Farm Credit will support sustainability of the Juntos 4-H program into the future.