

EXTENSION TRENDS: **MADISON COUNTY**

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2022 By the Numbers

- **5,961** direct contacts
- **3,455** youth participants
- **45** volunteers
- **850** volunteer hours
- **\$224,618** extramural funding

Our Advisory Council

Special thanks to our volunteers who help shape programming and inform the work we do for UI Extension in Madison County: Cheryl Empey, Catherine Stanton, Kellie Kigonya, Richard Larsen, Greg Blazer, Noelle Taylor, Gale Harding, Brent Mendenhall, Doug Smith.

UI Extension Educator



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2022 Impact

The University of Idaho Extension, Madison County office continued efforts to expand 4-H throughout the county, teaching programs to improve financial literacy, providing educational credits to farmers and ranchers, and increasing awareness of mental health concerns. Youth in Madison County were taught skills to help them find and maintain employment and essential personal finance skills to help them reach their financial goals. The UI Extension, Madison County newsletter shared several financial topics to improve the home's financial stability. Pesticide credits were offered during the local Cereal School, and other virtual classes were shared with Madison County residents. Stress awareness and Mental Health First Aid classes were taught to residents to bring awareness to the rising concern of suicide related to stress and mental health issues. The stress awareness program focuses on prevention and early intervention to help individuals recognize the effects of stress in their lives and the lives of their family and friends.

4-H in Madison County

The 4-H program has become more visible in the community by increasing the number of classroom enrichment activities at local elementary schools. There has been an increased demand for 4-H programs and day camps, resulting in fun and engaging opportunities for youth in the county. Day camps cover STEM education, cooking, sewing, crafts, and cake decorating, and several holiday craft day camps. The county fair hit a new record with increased attendance and was well received and supported by Madison County residents. The livestock shows were very competitive, and youth participants did an admirable job with their animals. The livestock sale had record highs in 2022 due to the generosity and support from the great residents of Madison County. Youth demonstrations were thought out and well presented. The 4-H projects on display covered several topics: sewing, photography, hiking, drones, cooking and Lego Robotics. All the hard work these young people put into their projects is evident and appreciated. The 4-H program is always looking to include and expand programs to reach a diverse audience in the county.

On the Horizon

UI Extension, Madison County has added Jared Gibbons as an Extension educator in agronomy. He brings expertise in biopesticides and soil microbiology to the county's large-scale and small-scale production operations. He is eager to work with farmers and ranchers on topics they indicate are of concern in the areas of crop production, farm management and safety. In the upcoming year, water efficiency methods, winter wheat trials and creative ways to increase agricultural literacy in a growing county will be investigated. Programs that will help and impact the lives of our 4-H youth and all community members will continue to be offered. Research-based information will be provided on the UI Extension Personal Finance Facebook page. Several afterschool day camps, such as donut-making, table manners and holiday crafts will be offered. Financial tune-up counseling will be available to help residents facing financial trials. The Extension office will continue working with the local advisory committee to offer relevant programs to help improve the lives and welfare of Madison County citizens.