

EXTENSION TRENDS: **TETON COUNTY**

University of Idaho Extension, Teton County • www.uidaho.edu/teton



2022 By the Numbers

- **3,706** direct contacts
- **1,304** youth participants
- **53** volunteers
- **2,000** volunteer hours
- **\$61,455** extramural funding

Our Advisory Council

Special thanks to our volunteers who help shape programming and inform the work we do for UI Extension in Teton County: Cindy Riegel, Bob Heneage, Doug Self, Rebeca Nolan, Hallie Poirier, Kim Kolner, and Wyatt Penfold

UI Extension Educator



Jennifer Werlin
208-354-2961
jwerlin@uidaho.edu

2022 Impact

UI Extension, Teton County hosted five in-depth hands-on small farm courses in conjunction with local farm partners as part of the Cultivating Success Idaho program, reaching over 30 new clients. As a positive output of the educational learning events, over 850 pounds of fresh produce were grown by Extension staff and donated to the Teton Valley Food Pantry. Working with the Idaho statewide team, local faculty delivered five live crop production Zoom workshops, reaching 23 statewide beginning farmers and ranchers. Faculty delivered five live Zoom horticulture classes as part of a Friday Garden Chat series, with over 100 people registering for the classes. An online Teton Valley Idaho Master Gardener course was held for 12 weeks, with 18 local participants.

Extension faculty helped the Teton Food and Farm Coalition highlight agritourism activities in the Teton foodshed region. The project included online surveys that gauged local food purchasing behaviors of consumers before and during the COVID-19 pandemic and consumer interest in leveraging agritourism activities, and the development of an online agritourism directory at tetonfoodfarmcoalition.org. This work was presented at the International Workshop on Agritourism in Burlington, Vermont, reaching over 300 conference attendees.

4-H in Teton County

The Teton County 4-H youth development program continues to adapt and grow, reaching a broader audience annually, with over 183 youth participants. There are now over 40 4-H clubs led by community volunteers, with a large emphasis on STEAM (science, technology, engineering, art, and math). In 2022, a \$56,000 Idaho Department of Health and Welfare Community Project Grant was received to expand STEAM offerings to underserved youth. Teton County 4-H executed eight 4-H Friday STEAM Day Camps, reaching over 40 youth. STEAM programming was also taught weekly and across the county to over 200 youth in afterschool programs (with 70% of youth considered at-risk and 50% underserved demographics). New volunteer trainings and continued partnerships with community organizations such as the Above and Beyond the Classroom program and One Stone Foundation were cultivated. These partnerships are helping 4-H reach more at-risk minority students in the community and reduce potential barriers to participation. UI Extension, Teton County hired the first ever full-time 4-H coordinator and a summer 4-H AmeriCorps youth instructor to help expand county services, especially for underserved clientele.

On the Horizon

In 2023, UI Extension, Teton County will offer a six-class High-Altitude Victory Garden course in-person and via Zoom. A short course on beginning beekeeping is also planned with a nonprofit partner during the spring. Extension faculty will continue to facilitate Teton Food and Farm Coalition meetings, helping with their mission to strengthen the Teton area food system. Faculty will also assist with on-farm and school educational days for the Driggs Elementary School's new farm and garden program. The 4-H youth program also continues to grow rapidly with the addition of 10 new clubs and increased emphasis on program expansion for Cloverbud members (ages 5-7). Teton County 4-H Leader Council meetings are held monthly at the Extension office, cultivating new leadership opportunities for adult volunteers.