

EXTENSION TRENDS: **TWIN FALLS COUNTY**

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2022 By the Numbers

- **9,485** direct contacts
- **5,513** youth participants
- **40** volunteers
- **1,536** volunteer hours
- **\$1,409,452** extramural funding

Our Advisory Council

Special thanks to our volunteers who help shape programming and inform the work we do for UI Extension in Twin Falls County: Abby Greenfield, Buddy Gharring, Cammie Jayo, Erin Richardson, Kyli Gough, Liz Mandelkow, Sarah Brown, Shelley Pursell, Susie Beem, Chance Munns, Tom Schwartz, LaMar Orton, James Reed, Kali Sherril, Kurk Tubbs, Robin Rausch, Rick Novacek, Tonya Corle, Sherry Olsen-Frank, Don Hall, Jack Johnson and Brent Reinke.

UI Extension Educators



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2022 Impact

Educators Siew Guan Lee and Andy West collaborated to expand the community garden project which piloted in 2021. As a result of the success of the program as well as media publicity, another \$2,800 from SNAP-Ed carry-in funds, a \$7,500 donation from Chobani and \$3,000 worth of plant starts from Moss Greenhouses was received. In 2022, it is estimated that over 900 pounds of fresh produce worth about \$2,500 was harvested from the garden sites. The produce has been utilized by refugees, Eat Smart Idaho program participants and community members.

The project expanded into school classrooms in spring 2022. A total of 60 garden pots in five elementary schools were established with the help of the students to grow cool season crops such as lettuce, spinach and mixed greens. The Eat Smart Idaho team also facilitated taste testing activities with green smoothies to encourage students to try, reaching over 800 youth. In fall 2022, herb gardens were established in 19 classrooms with the plan on implementing nutrition education and taste testing activities in November and December.

4-H in Twin Falls County

Lee continues to collaborate with FCS Extension educators from University of Georgia Extension to plan and conduct the Kids in the Kitchen Virtual Cooking Club. The program uses interactive, virtual cooking classes via Zoom to teach youth and families about nutrition, food safety, and cooking skills from the comfort of their home. The program has reached over 1,000 youth and adults since 2020 from 30 counties and six states. Participants reported increased food safety and nutrition knowledge, self-efficacy for cooking and cooking skills.

On the Horizon

Lee will continue the Kids in the Kitchen Virtual Cooking Club, school container gardens and Healthy Meals for Busy Families programming.

The partnership between West and Lee for the community gardens had led to another collaborative project taking gardens into elementary school classrooms. This program is becoming very popular and an Extension bulletin publication is being revised to help others duplicate this work in their areas of the state and across the nation.