

EXTENSION TRENDS: **VALLEY COUNTY**

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2022 By the Numbers

- 2,987 direct contacts
- 1,987 youth participants
- 34 volunteers
- 1,884 volunteer hours

Our Advisory Council

Special thanks to our volunteers who help shape programming and inform the work we do for UI Extension in Valley County: Pat Duncan, Sandy Dingman, Steve Anderson, Shauna Arnold, Delta James, Sherry Maupin, Karla Eitel, Lindsey Harris, and Patsy Kelly.

UI Extension Educator



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2022 Impact

Community development efforts included the formation of a Cascade Placemaking Committee to implement the Cascade Arts Walk funded by UI Extension. This project received an award from the Idaho chapter of the American Planning Association for Public Outreach. Educator Melissa Hamilton has continued involvement with the Peer Learning Network (PLN). The PLN gathers virtually each month, allowing participants more rapid solution finding to community issues. The PLN is part of the WeCAN network organized by UI Extension Specialist Lorie Higgins. In 2022, the PLN and a virtual community boot camp program were offered in Idaho, Montana and Wyoming. In 2022, Hamilton was an invited panelist for the Western Governors Association and a webinar with the Rural Development Institute.

Twelve participants took the Idaho Master Gardener class in 2022. Master Gardeners volunteered in the community through plant clinics, community garden steering committee leadership and the implementation of a drip irrigation system at the McCall High School Garden. Two farm tours were offered, one focused on poultry and the other on yak and cattle production.

4-H in Valley County

4-H Coordinator Alysson Statz hired and supervised two part-time staff and two seasonal 4-H AmeriCorps volunteers and generated learning materials, managed program promotion and coordinated logistics and delivery methods for ARPA grant implementation. Valley County 4-H offered a wide variety of club projects in addition to programs delivered at day camps, summer camps and afterschool programs for youth ages 5-18. In addition to the livestock 4-H program, sewing and cooking, healthy living, and STEM activities such as 3D printing and small drone programs were offered. In 2022, a total of 352 students were impacted by the delivery of 4-H programs. Community partners helped implement programming and the ARPA grant has expanded the reach and exposure to 4-H youth development programs with increased enrollment in 4-H clubs and Short-Term Enrollment (STEP) programs. Broadening its offerings has shown significant results as the total program enrollment grew 33% from 2019-20 and 32% from 2020-21. The 4-H Ambassador program, Know Your Government and district youth opportunities continue to be shared with local youth. Three virtual programs were developed for the U and I Together family learning series. AmeriCorps afterschool youth programs continued to be offered in partnership with the Donnelly Library.

On the Horizon

In 2023, Hamilton will continue to implement the second year of the Cascade Arts Walk placemaking project with Horizons' and the City of Cascade. She will convene people interested in community gardens in McCall to discover opportunities and will conduct a virtual listening session to gather stakeholder feedback on Extension programs in Valley and Adams counties. Hamilton will conduct a ripple mapping assessment in partnership with the Valley County Opioid Response Project to help evaluate their progress toward grant implementation. She will wrap up the bike and pedestrian counts project in partnership with the Cascade Mobility Team and the City of Cascade. Horticulture workshops and presentations will be held, including fire-wise gardening, native bees, Victory Garden Series and mushroom cultivation with the Advanced Idaho Master Gardeners. Master Gardeners will also provide monthly plant clinics to help residents answer questions about their gardens and properties.