

EXTENSION TRENDS: **BONNER COUNTY**

University of Idaho Extension, Bonner County • www.uidaho.edu/bonner



2023 By the Numbers

- **1,452** direct contacts
- **642** youth participants
- **122** volunteers
- **297** volunteer hours
- **\$688,678** extramural funding

Our Advisory Council

Special thanks to our volunteers who help shape programming and inform the work we do for UI Extension in Bonner County: Diane Green, Tina Imlay, Harry Menser, Connie Trotter, Nancy Mangham and Sarah Garcia.

UI Extension Educators



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2023 Impact

The Idaho Master Gardener program saw its largest class in 2023 with 25 students. Of these students, four have been certified with three more working towards certification. Master Gardener volunteers answered 48 plant clinic questions and had informational booths at the Sandpoint Farmers Market, the Bonner County Fair and the Preparedness Expo. Master Gardeners also helped with youth gardening activities, including after-school program activities and the Junior Master Gardener Club.

Hands-on workshops developed through the Beginning Farmer Rancher Development project for Cultivating Success continue to be offered. Three sessions were offered in 2023 focused on soil health, harvesting and season extension. By utilizing a performance-based learning model, the focus was on building knowledge and confidence around the skills needed to operate a small farm. Workshops were held at the University of Idaho Sandpoint Organic Agriculture Center. Staff and interns at the facility helped with workshops which included hands-on activities in the Educational Market Garden.

A total of 475 forest owners, loggers and professional foresters attended UI Extension forestry programs in Bonner County, including Landscaping for Fire Prevention, Backyard Forests, Logger Education to Advance Professionalism Update, Map and Compass for Forestry, 10 Acres and a Dream, Measuring Your Trees, Identifying Idaho Trees, Making and Using Biochar, the Forest Insect and Disease Field Day, and the Forestry Shortcourse. Currently, 14 Bonner County forest owners are certified UI Extension volunteers with the Idaho Master Forest Stewards, who provided over 509 hours of volunteer service to over 1,027 forest owners and others in the Idaho Panhandle.

4-H in Bonner County

Youth gardening activities offered additional STEM opportunities for Bonner County youth. During the school year the number of garden related after-school programs grew. The Extension office worked with Southside Elementary School again to offer springtime garden activities. Three additional parent and youth activities were held at three elementary schools, Southside, Kootenai and Farmin-Stidwell Elementary schools. In the traditional 4-H program of clubs and projects in Bonner County, there were 405 youth participants and 86 adult 4-H volunteers.

On the Horizon

The Idaho Master Gardener program continues to be a popular program for Bonner County. This coming year will include self-paced online modules for the Idaho Master Garden training program, offered in addition to the in-person classes.

New programs offered in 2024 will target those who want to produce food off their land and be better land stewards. A Beef Cattle Basic Care class will be held in February that will provide knowledge and skills needed to raise a small herd of beef cattle. The Living on the Land program will also be offered this year. This program covers such topics as soil and water quality, pasture management, forest management, and livestock care.