

EXTENSION TRENDS: **LATAH COUNTY**

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2024 By the Numbers

- **11,302** direct contacts
- **1,089** youth participants
- **184** volunteers
- **3,889** volunteer hours
- **\$565,353** extramural funding

Our Advisory Council

Special thanks to our volunteers who inform the work we do for UI Extension in Latah County: Jodi McClory, Jenny Parker, Paul Brandenstein, Jen Elliot, Robin Ohlgren, Lovina Englund, Tina Bass, Michelle Reynolds, Mauri Knott, Edie Simons, Joe Stanley, Jennifer Wallace, BJ Swanson, Kim Vogel, Marlys Wilson, Erika Odenborg, Jenny Ford, Rhonda Comstock and Kathie LaFortune.

UI Extension Educators



Iris Mayes
208-883-2267
imayes@uidaho.edu



Karen Richel
208-883-2241
krichel@uidaho.edu



Jessie Van Buren
208-883-2289
jvanburen@uidaho.edu

2024 Impact

Twenty-six immersive financial learning events created core memories for 566 elementary students aged 5-12 who participated in creative activities and real-world scenarios that fostered a deeper understanding of financial concepts. A 52-week declutter challenge brought 74 active participants that send monthly check-ins and have donated more the \$161,500 worth of items. A new Money Mastery Mentor program was offered to university students and community members. This program is modeled after the Master Gardener program, training volunteers for financial education in schools and in the community. Also offered was the fifth annual Our Financial Conference which brought together more than 200 participants to meet local financial businesses and resources and learn ways to engage in financial wellness.

USDA funded a Providing Educational Agriculture to Rural Schools project which supplied a weekly fruit or vegetable snack to 637 students for 12 weeks with accompanying educational materials. The Tuesday Market had \$30,853 in total vendor sales. One-to-one support was given to 140 small acreage farmers and gardeners on their soil and other facets of their operations and gardens. A farm product development and marketing class series was offered as well as basic gardening classes such as Vegetable Garden Planning and Seed Starting. The Master Gardener program included 11 newly certified volunteers with many community projects completed, including a native pollinator garden at Lena Elementary School. The Moscow Middle School Earth Club continued to plant and maintain four raised bed gardens and participated in Cooking from the Garden activities.

4-H in Latah County

Latah County 4-H reached 340 youth and 50 volunteers with the completion of 340 projects. Leaders hosted countywide project meetings for swine, rabbit and beef projects, as well as Cloverbud Activity Nights (ages 5-7). Throughout the summer, two AmeriCorps instructors hosted 17, two-hour workshops related to science, nutrition, robotics and engineering. At the Latah County Fair, 52 general projects were displayed, and 272 4-H animals were shown.

On the Horizon

Real-world, creative activities for elementary, middle and high school students are scheduled for the spring semester. The Money Mastery Mentor program will continue through the spring, bringing with it new, trained volunteers for financial programming taking place throughout the year. The sixth annual Our Financial Conference will bring a new collection of speakers, sponsors and timely financial information to the community.

The Tuesday Market outreach and advertising campaign will move into its third year, funded by USDA. Farm and garden classes will continue, and a shorter gardening program, Idaho Victory Gardens, will be offered in collaboration with surrounding counties, in lieu of the Idaho Master Gardener Program in 2025. The current 36 certified Master Gardeners will continue to run the Plant Clinic, table at farmers markets and assist gardeners in the community. The Master Gardener certification course will resume in 2026.

Youth Livestock Field Days will include an Advanced Animal Science Day for advanced youth as well as a Horse Day and a Swine Day. New volunteers are becoming certified to lead projects related to food/cooking, shooting sports and technology. Teen leadership opportunities will continue to include Livestock Ambassadors, Know Your Government, Camp Counselors and State Teen Association Convention, as well as the National Ignite Conference in Washington D.C. that two Latah County youth will be attending.