

# EXTENSION TRENDS: **LEMHI COUNTY**

University of Idaho Extension, Lemhi County • [www.uidaho.edu/lemhi](http://www.uidaho.edu/lemhi)



## 2023 By the Numbers

- **5,782** direct contacts
- **2,269** youth participants
- **63** volunteers
- **1,920** volunteer hours
- **\$9,441** extramural funding

## Our Advisory Council

Special thanks to our volunteers who inform the work we do for UI Extension in Lemhi County: Chris Kirby, Lynn Bowerman, Bobbi Eby, Kim Kesi, Mike Kessler, Leah Madsen, Frances Mueller, Tori O'Neal, Kevin Ramsey, Kate Yeater, Jake Zollinger, Curtis Beyeler, Kaelie Pena, Suzy Avey, Jeff Burch, Sara Chaplin, Amy Fealko, Kim Murphy, Rene Meyer, Amber Pace, Jill Patton, Maggie Seaberg, Katie Slavin, Caleb & Brittany Wallace, Carrie & Tom Whitson, Mallori Wing, Ruth Young, Brigham Peters, Erin Barrett, Merrill Beyeler, Kim Browne, Katie & Keelan Cooper, Sherry Elrod Paul Fisher, Melody Kauer, Shane Matson, Sherri Miller, Myriam Mualem, Bruce Mulkey, Ed Palmer, Rosana Reith, Marnie Spencer, Jeff & Marii Stratton, Shawna Troughton and Charli Williams.

## UI Extension Educators



**Shannon Williams**  
208-742-1696  
[shannonw@uidaho.edu](mailto:shannonw@uidaho.edu)



**Katie McFarland**  
208-742-1698  
[khoffman@uidaho.edu](mailto:khoffman@uidaho.edu)

## 2023 Impact

At the spring meeting for the NRCS Working Group, there was a discussion about reaching small landowners and helping them to understand the need to care for their soil. The decision was made to host the four-week program Land SMART. The first week focused on soil followed by water, plants and livestock. Fremont, Jefferson and Madison counties also participated and 57% of participants felt the class met their expectations. Seventy-one percent thought attending the workshops would help them reach their land goals and everyone said they would recommend the workshop to a friend.

In its 7th year of operation, the community dinner remains a vibrant and viable source for the development of social capital in the community. Serving nearly 200-300 participants each month, the dinners have become an important part of the fight against food insecurity and developing community inclusiveness. Since 2017, the percentage of people with a moderate need for meals increased from 8% to 17% and 9% expressed a strong need for the meal. The percentage of participants that attend the dinners for a sense of community increased from 29% to 44% between 2017 and 2023.

## 4-H in Lemhi County

Lemhi County 4-H attended Alpine 4-H Camp with 21 youth and four adults. This year, youth also attended Dirt Camp where they learned about different insects, how different animals use dirt and mud to create their homes, and many other activities to learn about the world. Participants also had the opportunity to explore the outdoors, go on a hike, participate in shooting sports, and spend time with other youth. Youth love to explore camps and develop relationships with other kids from both Lemhi and Jefferson Counties. Alpine 4-H Camp also draws in youth that do not usually participate in 4-H activities. Many will attend camp and then become interested in other activities.

## On the Horizon

One of the current challenges is reaching new audiences with Extension programming. Determining the best day/night of the week, the time and how often are questions that must be asked each time a workshop or class is offered. One of the challenges is the target audience usually has school age children. If both parents attend, then there is a need to find a babysitter, adding a cost to attending the course. If the course is offered virtually, then Extension loses the person-to-person contact and the opportunity to begin to build a relationship with clientele. A new idea is to piggyback a 4-H project camp with Extension workshops. Citizens could sign up for the adult class, youth could participate in the 4-H project camp, or the entire family could sign up for both. Thursday nights will be used to test the idea as there is no school on Friday.