

EXTENSION TRENDS: **TWIN FALLS COUNTY**

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2023 By the Numbers

- 15,476 direct contacts
- 11,860 youth participants
- 267 volunteers
- 790 volunteer hours
- \$3,233,789 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, Cooper Smith, Cammie Jayo, Kim Spiers, Kyli Gough, Liz Mandelkow, Sarah Brown, Kelly Herrgesell, Susie Beem, Jaysa Fillmore, Karrie Ricketts, Josselyn Smith, Chance Munns, Tom Schwartz, LaMar Orton, James Reed, Kali Sherill, Kirk Tubbs, Earl Olsen, Robin Rausch, Andrew and Stephanie Pospichal, Leon Overton, Dale Ducommun, Tonya Corle, Sherry Olsen-Frank, Don Hall, Jack Johnson and Brett Reinke.

UI Extension Educators



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2023 Impact

Educators Siew Guan Lee and Andres West provide leadership for the indoor container garden SEED program to help youth learn about growing and trying new foods, learning healthy behaviors, and building environmental awareness. Nineteen herb gardens were established in classrooms, reaching 392 students. Overall the program has reached 70+ classrooms and 1,800+ K-5 youth. The Eat Smart Idaho team facilitated taste test activities with herbs students grew, with 96% trying the food and 91% reporting they liked it. Teacher's were 100% satisfied with the program and 100% would recommend to others.

Lee partnered with colleagues to expand the Healthy Meals for Busy Families program, conducting five classes at senior centers and low-income housing in Jerome, Kimberly, Twin Falls, and Burley, reaching 82 participants, 71% of which were 60+ years old. Self-assessments showed 77% thought the program was useful for meal planning; 87% reporting improved pre-meal preparations; and 74% planning to cook more per week at home. Reducing the number of times citizens eat out can potentially result in savings of \$1,327.68 per person each year.

West conducted presentations to 2,000+ individuals unfamiliar with Extension programs to expand and reach new clientele, including under-served populations that have been hard to contact. He also coordinated the 2023 Idaho Horticulture and Small Farms In-service.

4-H provided programs in seven schools, Boys and Girls Clubs, and libraries to showcase STEAM activities, including robotics, coding, electricity, agriculture, engineering and mechanics. JUNTOS is in the South Hills Middle School for the second year with 23 eighth graders.

4-H in Twin Falls County

Traditional 4-H strong with 43 clubs, 641 youth and 202 volunteers. Educator Tina Miller continues to work on livestock education, quality assurance and management. Static projects are diverse with the largest enrollments in the shooting sports program. Lee continues to collaborate on the Kids in the Kitchen Virtual Cooking Club that teaches youth and families about nutrition, food safety and cooking skills from the comfort of their home. From Dec. 2022-Oct. 2023, 346 youth and adults were reached from 30 cities across four states. West continues to provide horticulture science programming to homeschool groups and charter schools, educating 111 youth in K-12 grade. This program provides a broader aspect of science than most individuals this age receive.

On the Horizon

Lee and West are co-authors of an Extension Bulletin on implementing indoor container gardens. The program will expand statewide through Eat Smart Idaho to reach additional participants. Lee and Miller will partner to enhance the project with science. Lee will also continue to offer Kids in the Kitchen Virtual Cooking Club. Miller will also begin new programs with youth in grades 5-12 on leadership and skills needed to be a good leader. West will be putting together a Horticulture Sustainability Symposium to address the need of individuals who want to maximize the use of their property in a sustainable way.