

# EXTENSION TRENDS: **JEROME COUNTY**

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## 2024 By the Numbers

- **3,736** direct contacts
- **595** youth participants
- **40** volunteers
- **300** volunteer hours
- **\$8,830** extramural funding

## Our Advisory Council

Special thanks to our volunteers who help shape programming and inform the work we do for UI Extension in Jerome County: Eduardo Reyes, Debbie Hartley, Kim Lickley, Makenzie Searle, Kyli Gough, Debbie Hartley, Eddee Gallegos, Charles Howell, Ben Crouch, Art Watkins, Gary and Becky Warr, Jack Nelson, Brady and Tianna Fife, James Patrick, Clark Kauffman, Roger Wells, Kim Lickley, Jim and Diane Meeks, Lydia Jackson, Ron C. Taylor, Janet Prescott, Steven Ricketts, Bryant Nelson, Mike Knutz, Makenzie Searle, Eddie Reyes, Pam Frampton, Oscar Martinez, Jose Martines and Doug Huettig.

## UI Extension Educators



**Steven Hines**  
208-324-7578  
[shines@uidaho.edu](mailto:shines@uidaho.edu)



**Gretchen Manker**  
208-324-7578  
[gretchenm@uidaho.edu](mailto:gretchenm@uidaho.edu)

## 2024 Impact

Educator Gretchen Manker and UI Extension colleagues expanded the Healthy Meals for Busy Families program in 2024. The target audience included adult participants with classes held at four senior centers, including the Jerome Senior Center, Silver and Gold Senior Center in Eden, the Ageless Senior Citizen in Kimberly and the Albion Senior Center in Cassia County. Overall, 89 senior adults attended the classes. Each participant received a swag bag with helpful meal preparation tools and recipes encouraging meals that serve one or two people or that freeze nicely to use later in the week or month.

Educator Steven Hines' main area of emphasis continues to be cover crop integration. He continued a study on yield difference in corn for silage if cover crop is interseeded with box drill versus broadcasting the seed on top. Two years of data indicated the corn is not damaged enough to affect yield when using a box drill and planting a cover crop before the corn plants are too large. Farmers that own a box drill would not need to purchase a separate interseeding drill to integrate cover crops into a growing corn crop. Another study evaluated different corn plant seeding populations to determine the correct population when planting corn for silage on 44-inch rows instead of standard 22-inch rows. Finding ways to help farmers adopt cover crops in-season helps them implement regenerative agricultural practices which improve the soil, help reduce inputs and improve profitability.

## 4-H in Jerome County

The Jerome County 4-H program welcomed 26 new families and six new leaders in 2024. The program was able to reach an additional 147 youth thanks to the efforts of an AmeriCorps volunteer who provided nine weeks of programming to the Jerome Boys and Girls Club. The volunteer taught STEAM, agriculture and cooking activities three days a week. Funding from St. Lukes of Magic Valley helped purchase food items and cooking supplies for eight cooking sessions. By the end of the summer, participants learned skills to avoid spreading germs while cooking, safely use a knife and cutting board, follow a recipe and to accurately measure liquid and dry ingredients. Each participant received a cooking kit to encourage cooking at home.

A summer intern, funded by the Jerome County Commissioners, helped with summer programming and activities, as well as fair prep. An eight-week, one day a week, leathercraft project was offered in 2024, reaching five participants and increasing interest in the project for 2025.

## On the Horizon

Manker and 4-H Coordinator Katlyn Scheer will implement an afterschool 4-H club with 3-5th grade youth at the Jerome Boys and Girls Club in 2025, helping youth build confidence and gain life skills through team building, public speaking, 4-H project work, and running for club office. A new STEAM project for all 4-H club members in kindergarten-5th grade will be offered.

Hines and a team of UI Extension educators are working to develop a small farm/homesteading program to reach an audience that hasn't been well served in the Magic Valley.