

EXTENSION TRENDS: **BEAR LAKE COUNTY**

University of Idaho Extension, Bear Lake County • www.uidaho.edu/bearlake



2024 By the Numbers

- **2,423** direct contacts
- **651** youth participants
- **41** volunteers
- **513** volunteer hours
- **\$17,850** extramural funding

Our Advisory Council

Special thanks to our volunteers who help shape programming and inform the work we do for UI Extension in Bear Lake County: Rex Payne, Wynn Olsen, Bradley Jensen, Emily Transtrum, Cameron Crane, Kyler Dygert, Leslie Talbot, Kandi Rudd, Jordon Hobbs, Courtney Boehme, Mary Crane, Layne Keetch, Jennifer Jenson and Azdyn Bartschi.

UI Extension Educator



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2024 Impact

Kari Ure, new Extension educator in family and consumer sciences and 4-H youth development, set a foundation for programming by conducting a needs assessment, re-establishing an advisory council and getting to know the county. She conducted a survey-based needs assessment to explore the needs in FCS and 4-H programming. Questions included program areas for both youth and adults, perspectives on youth and adult issues, education delivery preferences and notification preferences. Many avenues of seeking input resulted in 79 participants completing the survey. This information has been and will continue to be used in programming efforts.

Ure attended and presented at each of the five incorporated town council meetings in the county. Each meeting included education on the mission of Extension, local Extension resources and facilitated discussion on needs. Ure also visited each incorporated town hall to conduct pressure gauge checks, allowing citizens to have this service close to home.

Responses to the needs assessment and advisory council included requests for a vape education class for fifth graders, a new Facebook page for promotion, varying locations of classes taught throughout the county, and dinner and a speaker series with speakers about estate planning, home buying and mental health.

4-H in Bear Lake County

Bear Lake County 4-H had 221 enrolled youth in 2024 with 550 total fair projects completed. A total of 79 4-H classes were taught during the year and the 4-H program was active in all three elementary schools and the middle school, with 541 students in 30 classrooms receiving 158 sessions of classes. School engagement classes included Lego robotics, Idaho history PowerPoints, state PowerPoints, crochet, Finance, STEM and MyPlate curriculum. The Think Make Create trailer also visited each elementary school's field day.

In addition to a U of I funded quarter-time AmeriCorps member, UI Extension, Bear Lake secured a county funded intern for 160 hours during the summer. This gave a local college student the required internship for graduation with a degree in child development and supported more 4-H classes being taught in the county. Due to the success, funding was approved for another year in the county budget. Bear Lake County and U of I funds were also approved to support the hiring of a full-time AmeriCorps member to serve in the small rural location.

On the Horizon

4-H program offerings will be expanded, including a new 4-H portfolio program and an annual awards evening will be brought back to recognize youth 4-H participation. After quite a few years, the demonstration contest will also return to Bear Lake County.

UI Extension connected the local school district superintendent with the U of I admissions office to facilitate more dual enrollment options for local high school students and the possibility of local college credit classes. UI Extension is excited to support this endeavor and explore the possibilities.

Funding was awarded from multiple sources to obtain the three major brands of freeze dryers. Research will be conducted to compare these three units. Measures will include electricity use, noise level, completion time and general usability for each unit.