2021 Impact

UI Extension, Bonner County serves the community by offering programs on horticulture, small acreage farming and 4-H youth development. In addition to these programs, UI Extension forestry programs are offered in the county.

One of the main horticulture programs offered in 2021 was the Idaho Master Gardener program. The program was offered both in-person and online which allowed some seasonal residents to participate. The program included over 50 hours of instruction and trained 11 students. Four of those trainees went on to complete the requirements to become certified Idaho Master Gardener volunteers. Together, all the Master Gardener volunteers contributed 227 volunteer hours helping other gardeners in the community through the plant clinic and event booths.

Work continued to educate beginning farmer and ranchers both in Bonner County and around the state. Virtual trainings were offered on crop production, Digging Deeper: Growing Your Idaho Market Garden, and poultry production, Scratching Below the Surface: Idaho Small-Scale Poultry Production. Four hands-on workshop on market garden production were offered with six beginning farmers participating.

A total of 106 forest owners, loggers and professional foresters attended UI Extension forestry programs held in Bonner County, including the Forestry Shortcourse, Measuring Your Trees and Idaho Master Forest Stewards core training sessions. Many Bonner County residents also attended UI Extension forestry programs held in adjacent Idaho Panhandle counties. Zoom-based programs on forest health, fire risk reduction for homes located in the wildland urban interface, forestry cost sharing, backyard forests and a multi-faceted program titled 10 Acres and a Dream reached over 631 participants, including many from Bonner County. Fifteen Bonner County residents served as certified volunteers with the Idaho Master Forest Stewards. Collectively, Idaho Master Forest Stewards provided over 530 hours of volunteer service to over 1,000 contacts in 2021.

4-H in Bonner County

The 4-H Youth Development program in Bonner County focused on organizational and project clubs in 2021. A variety of projects were offered such as cooking, leathcrcraft, livestock and shooting sports. There were 413 youth members in the program and 93 adult volunteers.

On the Horizon

Hands-on beginning farmer and rancher programs will continue to be offered. The facilities at the University of Idaho Sandpoint Organic Agriculture Center have been a great resource for these programs. In 2022, more hands-on market garden workshops as well as poultry production workshops will be offered.