

# EXTENSION TRENDS: **BONNER COUNTY**

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



## 2020 By the Numbers

- **336** direct contacts
- **382** youth participants
- **141** volunteers
- **150** volunteer hours
- **\$456,860** extramural funding

## Our Advisory Council

Special thanks to our volunteers who help shape programming and inform the work we do for UI Extension in Bonner County: Diane Green, Breigh Peterson, Harry Menser, Connie Trotter, Chris Elliot and Sarah Garcia.

## UI Extension Educator



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## 2020 Impact

UI Extension, Bonner County horticulture programs include the Idaho Master Gardener program as well as general gardening workshops. The Master Gardener class was offered in-person and then switched to online due to the pandemic. Although many normal volunteer opportunities were not available, the Plant Clinic was held in a virtual format. Clientele emailed photos and questions to the Extension office then gathered online to learn more. Gardening workshops were limited but a few videos were created.

Work had started on a hands-on program to educate beginning farmers and rancher throughout Idaho. The program pivoted to an online format with a change in curriculum and program delivery. A market garden course and poultry production course were offered. To create a practical curriculum, producers around the state, including two market garden farmers and one poultry farmer in Bonner County were consulted. Six Bonner County beginning farmers participated, along with others from around the state.

More than 284 forest owners, loggers and professional foresters attended UI Extension forestry programs held in Bonner County and residents also attended programs held in adjacent counties. In 2020, programs on forest health, fire risk reduction for homes located in the wildland urban interface, and a multi-faceted program, 10 Acres and a Dream, were offered via Zoom with over 316 participants, including many from Bonner County. Currently, 15 Bonner County forest owners are certified UI Extension volunteers with the Idaho Master Forest Stewards.

## 4-H in Bonner County

Although the 4-H year was quite different in 2020, the county fair exhibitions and other end-of-year county events were held in a safe manner. The 4-H program engaged in more online content. Some volunteers utilized social media or developed videos for club and project members. The volunteer leader committees and councils used online platforms to continue meeting through the pandemic. Even when face-to-face gathering were permitted, the online option continued to be used, allowing some volunteers that might not have otherwise attended the meetings to participate.

## On the Horizon

The beginning farmer and rancher curriculum will continue to be revised and more hands-on components will be incorporated, as initially intended with the project. Beginning farmer publications are being developed to be used with this program and others in the future.

The 4-H program is working to streamline processes to make it easier to navigate, especially for new families. More volunteer training opportunities and day camp activities will be provided in the future.