

# EXTENSION TRENDS: BUTTE COUNTY

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## 2020 By the Numbers

- **610** direct contacts
- **75** youth participants
- **101** volunteers
- **110** volunteer hours
- **\$3,891** extramural funding

## Our Advisory Council

Special thanks to our volunteers who help shape programming and inform the work we do for UI Extension in UI Extension in Butte County: Randy Purser, Michelle Purser, Romero Pancheri, Lacey Pancheri, Brad Huerta, Robert Chambers, Gretta Chambers, Dina Johnson, Melinda Shodin, Colleen Madarieta, Nickolas Hawley, Hadley MacConnell, Monte MacConnell, Anne MacConnell and Brian Harrell.

## UI Extension Educator



**David Callister**  
208-527-8587  
[dcallister@uidaho.edu](mailto:dcallister@uidaho.edu)

## 2020 Impact

Some programs were cut short or modified to meet safety guidelines due to COVID-19. Educational activities in local schools were altered, including a computer coding class in the elementary school. Students were able to finish their projects, but not demonstrate to the community. Activities with the community garden were also altered, however, a project to start plants did occur before events were suspended.

The UI Extension office was able to participate in a spring workshop held by the Butte Soil and Water Conservation District and a fall conservation caravan. Pesticide recertification classes were held online to help local farmers maintain their licenses and Educator David Callister was able to visit individuals at their farms and homes to help diagnose pest issues.

Callister also taught the 4-H curriculum Build Your Future in local schools. This program teaches the importance of training and education in lifetime salary earnings and helps youth learn about applying and paying for additional training or education after high school. The goal is to showcase opportunities within the community and encourage youth to return to the area after receiving additional education. Callister also met with seniors to discuss scholarships for post-secondary education.

An advisory committee was formed and held their first meeting. A plan of work for 2021 was adopted and work is underway to complete the plan.

## 4-H in Butte County

The 4-H program in Butte County had active beef, cat, chicken, cooking, dairy, horse, rabbit, sheep, swine and robotics clubs in 2020. Most youth participated in the Butte County Fair in August.

The robotics club participated well in the state competitions bringing home a few top three finishes. The 4-H market animal sale exceeded previous year's prices and several youth competed in the Eastern Idaho State Fair and Junior Dairy Show.

Callister taught online classes on dairy nutrition and metabolic disorders in cattle to 4-H youth across the state. Facebook was used to encourage youth to try new things with a Butte County Cooking Challenge. Several people accepted the challenge and posted pictures of their creations.

In December, 10 youth participated in Mars Base Camp. Topics included exploring ways to overcome challenges of traveling to, living on, feeding the explorers on, and communicating back to earth while on Mars. The camp was held on Fridays allowing both school based students and home-schooled children to participate.

## On the Horizon

Callister is working with the Butte Soil and Water Conservation District to demonstrate different tillage options and the impact on yield in wheat. Classes are being held monthly on various agricultural topics to help local farmers. There are also plans to hold a family financial management class in 2021. 4-H is working on expanding the number of clubs to include cooking, sewing and science activities.