

EXTENSION TRENDS: **ELMORE COUNTY**

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2020 By the Numbers

- **1,156** direct contacts
- **297** youth participants
- **57** volunteers
- **3,300** volunteer hours
- **\$60,660** extramural funding

Our Advisory Council

Special thanks to our volunteers who help shape programming and inform the work we do for UI Extension in Elmore County: Justin Wootan, Jared Zito, Billy Wolfe, Kya Vines-Bideganeta, Jason Nettleton, Julie Davis, Jeff Blanksma and Monty White.

UI Extension Educator



Brad Stokes
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2020 Impact

Educator Brad Stokes organizes a yearly pesticide recertification course for agricultural and horticultural professionals in Elmore County. He also bridges the gap with various research projects that are directly applicable to local growers and their crops. Stokes and his program assistant help judge the National Corn Yield Contest every fall for several county producers and he responds to various agricultural and ranching related questions across the county to help solve real-world problems.

Stokes recruited, taught and developed an Idaho Master Gardener class of eight individuals in spring 2021. Master Gardeners are solely involved in planting, growing and managing the Community Garden in Mountain Home. The majority of food and fresh produce is donated back into the community. Stokes responds to various horticultural and insect/arthropod related questions in the community and responds to questions through UI Extension's Idaho Insect Identification website.

Stokes oversees the Elmore County 4-H program, coordinated by Nadine Cook, and expanded the shooting sports program to include shotgun, pistol and rifle leaders. A part-time 4-H program assistant was hired to expand programming to include afterschool projects, including a five-week entomology science course.

4-H in Elmore County

UI Extension, Elmore County's 4-H program encompasses 237 youth in various traditional and innovative projects. Youth can choose from 29 projects led by 4-H leaders in 20 clubs throughout Elmore County. The 4-H program is led by Nadine Cook who has been a remarkable asset for program implementation, youth members and 4-H leader development. Shooting sports continues to be a popular attraction, as well as the majority of traditional 4-H livestock projects. The afterschool 4-H programming encompasses sewing, entomology science and arts to provide additional opportunities.

Through the National 4-H Council National Mentoring Program (NMP) grant, Stokes oversees Mountain Home Air Force Base programming and Jami Davis serves as site coordinator. Davis provides mentor/mentee matching for 60 youth and 14 mentors using Tech Wizards curriculum.

All Elmore County youth programs have continued to see tremendous success with amazing community and county support.

On the Horizon

Stokes is exploring a second bee sample for the Elmore County Bee Survey Project in summer 2022 to complete a four-year study on native bee species in Elmore County. A study of this magnitude scientifically documents the current species found and explores hypotheses concerning the richness of bee species in the county for the future.

A Smoking and Grilling class is an opportunity for Stokes to explore Family and Consumer Science programs for adults and youth. The NMP grant will explore a healthy living curriculum for youth at the Mountain Home Air Force Base.