

EXTENSION TRENDS: **GEM/BOISE COUNTY**

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2024 By the Numbers

- 5,116 direct contacts
- 2,329 youth participants
- 55 volunteers
- 3,982 volunteer hours

Our Advisory Council

Special thanks to our volunteers who help shape programming and inform the work we do for UI Extension in Gem and Boise counties.

UI Extension Educator



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2024 Impact

Educator Rebecca Mills collaborates on livestock, small acreage and 4-H Youth Development programming locally, regionally and statewide. In 2024 she co-facilitated 10 multi-faceted efforts including a new 12-week Tri-County Master Gardener course, a six-part small farms webinar series, a 10-week Pasture Management course and three youth livestock field days. In addition to co-facilitating courses, Mills taught nine workshops on topics from proper personal protective equipment when applying pesticides, to the basics of animal husbandry, to what sportsmanship looks like in 4-H. A notable new effort this year was partnership with other colleagues in UI Extension to bring awareness to integrated crop livestock systems through a grant-funded workshop and farm tour. By partnering with colleagues, Mills expands the offerings to local audiences and brings more expertise to the area.

4-H in Gem/Boise County

Gem and Boise County 4-H faculty, staff and volunteers hosted a successful animal science skills day event in Emmett. The three-hour event included presentations where youth learned skills they could use for their project requirements. There were 28 adults and 32 youth from three counties in attendance. Topics included animal identification, animal by-products, vaccinations, artificial insemination and sportsmanship.

Gem and Boise County 4-H faculty and staff conducted a significant effort in volunteer development in late 2023/early 2024 by interviewing each certified volunteer. Volunteer interviews focused on pros and cons of their volunteer experience as well as gathering feedback of how UI Extension can better support volunteers in their club work. There were 44 interviews completed (96% of all returning volunteers). The model of completing an annual interview with volunteers is innovative. Gem and Boise County 4-H faculty and staff shared the model with 4-H peers from across the country at a poster session during the National Association of Extension 4-H Youth Development Professionals Conference in Boise.

On the Horizon

As prompted by a new statewide policy that all 4-H clubs have at least two certified volunteers present at 4-H club activities, 4-H Program Coordinator Chane' Nelson is working hard to certify new volunteers. Twenty new applications were received in October/November 2024.

Gem County will be hosting a Whole Farm Planning Course in January-April for small acreage landowners looking to take their business to the next level.