

# EXTENSION TRENDS: **GOODING COUNTY**

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



## 2020 By the Numbers

- **3,122** direct contacts
- **532** youth participants
- **134** volunteers
- **150** volunteer hours
- **\$10,045,600** extramural funding

## Our Advisory Council

Special thanks to our volunteers who help shape programming and inform the work we do for UI Extension in Gooding County: Mark Bolduc, Susan Bolton, Cooper Brossy, Ron Buhler, Larry Bybee, Ricky Fritz, Kay Hults, Sue Johnson, Jessica Knapp, Barb Messick, Tanya Oldham, Leigh Patterson, Jamie Price, Chris Pruett, Derek Romer, Megan Satterwhite, Arlene Shaw, Jordan Stebbins, Isaac Tellez, Jaren Wadsworth and Larry Walton.

## UI Extension Educators



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## 2020 Impact

The UI Extension, Gooding County office responded to COVID-19 with flexible programming, publications, videos and grant proposals to help the community with COVID-19 resources.

Multiple projects began in 2020, including a USDA Sustainable Agricultural Systems (SAS) grant. Educator Mario de Haro Martí has \$1.2 million in spending authority for two research and Extension projects. Programs include cover crops, compost and vermicompost, and soil biostimulants for corn silage.

The Gooding Community Garden, a partnership with UI Extension, Gooding Soil Conservation District, NRCS, and volunteers, generated 6,500 pounds of produce that was donated to five non-profits in two cities and the Gooding jail. Demonstrations were held on cover crops, drought-tolerant grasses, pollinator habitat, fruit tree planting and care, and community gatherings.

STEM activities were taught in partnership with Hagerman and Bliss school districts, Idaho Fish and Game, volunteers and community members to support the National 4-H STEM and agriculture initiative. A grant funded science fair included guest speakers sharing how science can be found in the community. Participants toured 36 projects presented by 63 students in various categories. Eleven projects went to state, six won their divisions, three won National Bronze Awards and three received National Gold Awards at the National FFA Convention.

Friday Fun Food Labs provided hands-on learning sessions for youth and adults, about the science used to transform raw products into the foods we eat. Topics included how a crop is grown and how once harvested it is made into raw food products.

## 4-H in Gooding County

The Gooding County 4-H program consisted of 14 clubs, 188 members and 197 projects displayed at the 2020 Gooding County Fair. Hybrid and virtual programs were offered, including virtual drawing classes and a spring dairy education day. In-person events included the county fair, a dog workshop, summer dairy education day, and the year-end awards ceremony to honor 4-H members and volunteers for their hard work.

A part-time AmeriCorps instructor allowed for expansion of networking and program support through leadership trainings, robotics day camp, first aid training, and the creation of social media accounts. Virtual programs included a cooking challenge series, We-Connect classes on global empathy and leadership, blog series, Herrett Center reptile virtual field trip, STEAM activities and a 4-H informational series. In-person programs included cake decorating and Junior Master Gardener classes.

## On the Horizon

Research and Extension programs for the USDA-SAS grant are being developed to generate a bioeconomy based on dairy manure and other byproducts to benefit rural America. This five-year project will potentially provide another revenue source for farmers.

The Gooding Community Garden will expand its ability to produce fresh vegetables for underserved and at-risk members of the community.

Collaboration with the Idaho School for the Deaf and Blind will identify and convert youth education curriculum to braille, large print, and audio.

Summer 2021 programs include a space exploration series, an oil painting without rules series, and a cake decorating series.