

EXTENSION TRENDS: MADISON COUNTY

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2020 By the Numbers

- **6,597** direct contacts
- **3,228** youth participants
- **30** volunteers
- **420** volunteer hours
- **\$31,508** extramural funding

Our Advisory Council

Special thanks to our volunteers who help shape programming and inform the work we do for UI Extension in Madison County: Will Ricks, Cheryl Empey, Catherine Stanton, Richard Larsen, Noelle Taylor, Gale Harding, Brent Mendenhall and Doug Smith.

UI Extension Educator



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2020 Impact

Several UI Extension, Madison County programs had a significant impact in the community in 2020, including Employment Feud, Welcome to the Real-World Workbook, Cooking Under Pressure for Youth, Farm Stress Management, Farm Management, and Farm Succession Planning.

Over 100 Madison County youth participated in financial literacy programs, learning how to find employment, budget, and the benefits of a good credit score.

Agriculture community members learned best business practices through online farm management classes. Farm Succession Planning classes have been in high demand to help local farmers and ranchers make plans to sell or pass their operations to the next generation. Having the classes online in 2020 allowed for more audience participation. This program helps provide the groundwork needed to take proper steps that ensure the family farm is taken care of and passed to the next generation.

Farm Stress Management is an important program to help local farmers handle and deal with the mounting stress they face due to the economic challenges in agriculture. This program will continue to be taught in Madison County and across the state. The UI Extension, Madison County office will continue to seek guidance from local community members to develop and bring programs that will benefit residents.

4-H in Madison County

The 4-H program in Madison County continues to grow, even with setbacks related to the pandemic. A safe and socially distanced 4-H camp was held, the county fair was well attended, livestock shows were competitive, and all participants did an admirable job with their animals, demonstrations and presentations. 4-H projects covered topics including sewing, photography, hiking, drones and cooking. A lot of work was put into the fair and day camp to ensure that all federal and state COVID-19 regulations were followed. The 4-H program is always looking to include and expand programs to reach a diverse audience in the county.

On the Horizon

The UI Extension, Madison County office will continue to ensure programs are safely provided to impact the lives of clients, 4-H youth and all members of the community. Educator Lance Hansen will continue to work with statewide colleagues to offer research-based information on the UI Extension Personal Finance Facebook page and will continue to promote the LifeSmarts youth educational program in Madison County.

Mental Health First Aid classes will be offered to help create awareness around this critical topic and break down stigmas surrounding mental illness and suicide. Another program area that is currently being developed is retirement and social security benefits for farmers and ranchers. Retirement is a hot topic and essential for Idaho farmers and ranchers who find they are not eligible for social security retirement benefits. Another new program will address the importance of retirement planning.