

EXTENSION TRENDS: **TETON COUNTY**

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2024 By the Numbers

- **3,224** direct contacts
- **927** youth participants
- **60** volunteers
- **1,650** volunteer hours
- **\$59,658** extramural funding

Our Advisory Council

Special thanks to our volunteers who help shape programming and inform the work we do for UI Extension in Teton County: Jonah Sloven, Hallie Poirier, Holly James, Bob Heneage, Elaine Moehring, Siena Hester, Wyatt Penfold and Dan Reyes.

UI Extension Educator



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2024 Impact

Community food system programming in Teton Valley flourished with key initiatives in 2024. The hybrid High-Altitude Idaho Master Gardener course, offered in asynchronous, in-person, and Zoom formats, had over 20 registrants and received positive feedback. Eight in-person labs and four Ask a Master Gardener service days at the Teton Valley Farmers Market were held, contributing over 1,500 hours of horticulture-related community service. Annie's Project, offered county and statewide, reached 19 participants, empowering women in agriculture with skills in problem-solving, record-keeping and decision-making across five areas of agricultural risk management: production, legal, market, human and financial. Extension Educator Jennifer Werlin played a pivotal role in expanding beekeeping education, delivering two backyard beekeeping workshops at the Eastern Idaho Master Gardener Convention, reaching 40 attendees. Werlin also facilitated Teton Valley Beekeeping Association meetings via Zoom and partnered with Mountain Roots Education for a hands-on vermicomposting workshop, with over 20 participants. Support for the Teton Food and Farm Coalition continued through meeting facilitation, outreach and work on the Agritourism in the Tetons project. This included developing a GIS-based online agritourism directory and printing marketing rack cards. These programs have been vital in building community engagement and supporting agricultural education and sustainability in the region.

4-H in Teton County

Teton County 4-H continues to grow, reaching over 315 youth through 4-H clubs, day camps and afterschool programs with Above and Beyond the Classroom (ABC). More than \$1,900 in scholarship funds were awarded to youth for day camps. With over 40 4-H clubs led by community volunteers, the program places a strong emphasis on STEAM (science, technology, engineering, art and math). A \$30,000 Idaho Out-of-School Network Grant supported 4-H staff salaries, technology and equipment. In 2024, Teton County 4-H hosted seven 4-H Friday STEAM Summer Day Camps, engaging over 40 youth. STEAM programming was also delivered weekly across the county to youth in ABC afterschool programs, with 70% of participants considered at-risk and 50% underserved. Volunteer development and partnerships with community organizations, such as the ABC program, were key to expanding the program's reach. These partnerships are instrumental in connecting with at-risk minority students, improving access to 4-H activities and fostering greater community involvement in youth development.

On the Horizon

Werlin will focus on bilingual Spanish-English programming during her sabbatical, returning in May 2025. Bilingual and inclusive programming have been identified as key needs at the county and state levels and will serve as a foundation for future Extension programs and publications. The popular High-Altitude Victory Garden course will be offered in spring 2025. Extension faculty will continue facilitating Teton Food and Farm Coalition meetings, supporting the mission to strengthen the Teton area food system. They will also assist with educational days at Driggs Elementary School's farm and garden program and contribute to bilingual garden programming for the school's dual immersion program. The 4-H program is rapidly expanding with new clubs and increased participation. New leaders are being added to meet the growing demand. This is particularly relevant for Friday 4-H programming since Teton School District 401 went to a four-day school week.