2020 Impact

UI Extension, Valley County provides programming in community development, youth development, agriculture and horticulture. In 2020, the office responded to the COVID-19 shut down by partnering with the McCall Chamber to offer a community development business feature series in conjunction with their business after hours events. Chamber members and the public gathered virtually to highlight how the community could support local businesses during the pandemic. In partnership with Mountain Valley Fellowship, UI Extension launched a learning circle focused on inclusive communities in the West Central Mountains.

In-person horticulture and natural resource classes such as the Master Gardeners and Everything Fish pivoted to virtual delivery and continued with excellent retention of participants. UI Extension also partnered with the Payette Children's Forest to offer a virtual Youth Education Leadership Summit.

Agriculture education included a virtual pest week series and presentations on grasshoppers, bark beetles and tussock moth. The implementation of a passive seed exchange bin program was launched at local libraries in partnership with the West Central Mountains Food Coalition. These bins allowed residents of Valley County to leave extra seeds and pick up free local seed resources. A local food shed story map was created to help connect consumers with producers in the area that sell directly to the public. Local food banks, community gardens, and other food security resources were included on the story map.

4-H in Valley County

The UI Extension, Valley County 4-H program continued to offer outstanding youth development programming for ages 5-18, focused on STEM, livestock education, art, yoga and healthy eating programs. Clubs met virtually and at socially distanced in-person events. Large and small animal livestock clinics, STEM 3-D printer train the trainer program, and Facebook Live virtual youth programming was provided in 2020. The Valley County fair was canceled due to COVID-19, however 4-H youth continued to show their projects at the animal livestock show which was held in person at the Valley County fairgrounds.

On the Horizon

UI Extension Educators are offering a virtual education series throughout summer 2021 focused on family learning. Multiple educators will come together to offer a mini-educational series with topics such as gardening, cooking, environmental education and family fun.

UI Extension, Valley County is hosting a statewide Peer Learning Network (PLN) to convene planners, city and county leadership, local residents and anyone interested in dialogue and discussion surrounding difficult community issues participants are facing. The PLN has addressed broadband, housing and community's response to COVID-19. Moving forward this group will be discussing and finding possible solutions for workforce development, early childhood education and other topics of interest.

2020 By the Numbers

- 615 direct contacts
- 486 youth participants
- 79 volunteers
- 1,400 volunteer hours
- $16,500 extramural funding

Our Advisory Council

Special thanks to our volunteers who help shape programming and inform the work we do for UI Extension in Valley County: Shauna Arnold, Cami Hedges, Delta James, Gary Thompson, Rebecca Hurd, Maralee Cross, Patsy Kelley, Liz Jones, Steve Anderson, Andrew Mentzer and Dawn Morton.

UI Extension Educator

Melissa Hamilton
208-382-7190
mbhamilton@uidaho.edu

University of Idaho Extension, Valley County • www.uidaho.edu/valley