

# EXTENSION TRENDS: **BUTTE COUNTY**

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## 2024 By the Numbers

- 1174 direct contacts
- 82 youth participants
- 14 volunteers
- 1,140 volunteer hours
- \$100,540 extramural funding

## Our Advisory Council

Special thanks to our volunteers who help shape programming and inform the work we do for UI Extension in Butte County: Elijah Hargreaves, Kirby Jensen, Wayne Ouellette, Melinda Snodin, Brian Harrell, Tiffany Jones, Wylee Nally, Ty and Bryton Pancheri, Joni Pitcher, Paul and Cindy Wanstrom, Saige Wantrom and Makayla Callister.

## UI Extension Educator



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## 2024 Impact

Classes and workshops were held in the areas of forage production, small grains, pasture, pest management and stress management, allowing farmers opportunities to improve their skills and maintain their licenses. A special meeting was held for farmers interested in growing hemp.

A tillage demonstration trial continues in Howe in conjunction with the Butte/South Custer Soil and Water Conservation District.

Community development work is focused on UI Extension Educator David Callister teaching youth about the importance of training after high school, how to pay for college and the acquisition of job skills.

The advisory committee met in October and offered an array of topics for classes in 2025. Water management and safely using pesticides ranked as priority agriculture topics. Self-reliance was the highest priority for community development. Trade skills were the most mentioned areas for 4-H/Youth Development expansion.

## 4-H in Butte County

The 4-H program in Butte County had active beef, cat, chicken, goat, horse, rabbit, sheep, shooting sports, swine and robotics clubs in 2024. Most youth participated in the Butte County Fair in August. The 4-H market animal sale exceeded previous years' prices, and several youths competed in the Eastern Idaho State Fair.

Shooting sports added air rifle and air pistol this year. The Lost River Straight Shooters club serves the youth of both Butte and Custer counties. More volunteer leaders were certified to allow the new projects offered this year. The club has been working with the Arco Lions Club to use their shooting range.

AmeriCorps members serving in Butte County reached new audiences by conducting weekly day camps in three locations. The day camps were held in Arco, Howe and Moore.

## On the Horizon

The tillage demonstration trial continues in Howe. Plans are in place to host two AmeriCorps volunteers to help with 4-H positive youth development for the summer of 2025. Several of the 4-H clubs will have new volunteer leaders for 2025. The UI Extension office is actively recruiting leaders for cooking and sewing clubs.

Gardening classes are scheduled biweekly from January through March. Monthly agricultural classes are planned, with January's topic being water management.