

EXTENSION TRENDS: **CASSIA COUNTY**

University of Idaho Extension, Cassia County • www.uidaho.edu/cassia



2024 By the Numbers

- 12,257 direct contacts
- 1,640 youth participants
- 74 volunteers
- 2,220 volunteer hours
- \$7,470 extramural funding

Our Advisory Council

Special thanks to our volunteers who help shape programming and inform the work we do for UI Extension in Cassia County: Michael Ottley, Leonard Beck, Bob Kunau, Beverly Searle, David Mabey, Jeanne Allen, Penne Main, Stephanie Curtis, Mike Allen, Amy Christopherson, Debi Barnes, John Pasket, Al Barrius, Kent Searle, Dixie Tate, Colby Carpenter, Sharon Hardy, Wanda Baker, Joann Robbins, Christine Baird and Arlene Shaw.

UI Extension Educator



Brandon Brackenbury
208-878-9461
brandonb@uidaho.edu



Grace Wittman
208-878-9461
gwittman@uidaho.edu

2024 Impact

UI Extension, Cassia County has 12 Master Food Safety Advisors that aid with teaching classes, testing canning equipment and answering critical food safety/food preservation questions. These volunteers contributed approximately 200 hours to assisting UI Extension with food safety/food preservation related issues.

Healthy Meals for Busy People continued in 2024 with the goal of encouraging seniors to cook more balanced meals at home. The program received funding that allowed presenters to provide classes for free to senior citizen centers and low-income residences. A total of 104 participants were reached, with 68% reporting the program was very to extremely useful for meal planning, and 78% reporting moderately or highly improved pre-meal preparation.

Each year UI Extension, Cassia County is asked to participate in the 4th grade Idaho History Day. Educators and 4-H staff taught cheese making and the history of dairy and butter making to over 200 youth in the county.

Extension Educator Brandon Brackenbury joined the UI Extension, Cassia County office in July 2024. He participated in a five-week farm financial analysis course with six attendees from around the state. Much of his time was spent working with youth and families within the 4-H livestock projects in Cassia County.

4-H in Cassia County

Cassia County had a fantastic 2024 4-H year. Livestock project numbers remained high with tremendous growth in the smaller animal projects. Youth in Cassia County received great support from community members and the Cassia County 4-H/FFA Market Animal Sale Committee. 4-H volunteers excelled in teaching youth how to care for their animals and preparing for project exhibition. Biosecurity was a primary focus for livestock project members. Family and consumer science and miscellaneous membership remains steady. Cassia County 4-H continued partnerships with the College of Southern Idaho, Burley Public Library, Cassia County School District and Cassia Intermountain Health by offering summer programs in conjunction with these partners.

On the Horizon

4-H will continue to focus on STEAM curriculum to the community with priority on getting into the school system directly during the day. Teaching youth life skills such as public speaking will also be a priority.

Family and consumer science programming will focus on back to basics with cooking and financial programs.

Agriculture programs will focus on classes associated with beef cattle production and financial management courses, small ruminant seminars and other educational opportunities related to 4-H youth projects.