

EXTENSION TRENDS: **JEROME COUNTY**

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2023 By the Numbers

- **8,033** direct contacts
- **713** youth participants
- **34** volunteers
- **285** volunteer hours
- **\$88,360** extramural funding

Our Advisory Council

Special thanks to our volunteers who help shape programming and inform the work we do for UI Extension in Jerome County: Jim Meeks, Diane Meeks, Jose Martinez, Oscar Martinez, Roger Wells, Tianna Fife, Doug Huettig, Ben Crouch, Charlie Howell, Art Watkins, Ron Taylor, Lydia Jackson, Bryant Nelson, Andrea Wiesenmeyer, Debbie Hartley and Kim Lickley.

UI Extension Educators



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2023 Impact

Growers in the Magic Valley continue to increase cover crop acreage, but the crop mix and harvest dates make cover crop adoption a challenge. Most crops are harvested too late for cover cropping practices to be implemented. Educator Steven Hines has been researching methods to grow cover crops in silage corn by planting when corn plants are small in the early summer. One method being adopted is planting silage corn on wider than normal rows which allows more sunlight to reach the cover crop under the corn. It appears that corn yields can be maintained and when harvested, there is a well-established cover crop to provide for grazing, or to help hold soil in place through the winter and spring winds. Programs on preserving and processing foods safely at home is a focus for Educator Gretchen Manker. Along with safe home food preservation methods, Manker and fellow FCS educators focus programs on menu planning from foods on hand, freezing and storing meals safely, and eating a variety of foods to balance out nutrient intake.

Twelve youth and two counselors attended 4-H summer camp. An increase in beef projects resulted in the need to find solutions to safely house the animals during fair. Space that is not normally used was converted and remodeled to fit all the animals.

4-H in Jerome County

The 4-H program gained 35 new families and eight new leaders, resulting in a family night for all 4-H families to learn more about 4-H. The Jerome County Fair received a \$50,000 grant from AgWest Farm Credit which resulted in an update to the pig barn with brand new pens and watering system. The Jerome County Senior Livestock Skill-a-thon team won the state contest and competed in the North American International Livestock Exposition in Kentucky. One youth placed 4th high individual in evaluation on hay and wool judging, and overall the team placed 19th in the competition.

Two summer day camps were offered, one on food and kitchen safety using an air fryer and the other on food and kitchen safety while learning about cake decorating. Eight non-4-H youth attended each of the camps.

Juntos 4-H supports Latinx youth in 8-12 grades to graduate from high school and go-on to post-secondary education. Juntos 4-H served 49 youth in 2023 with 94% of Juntos seniors graduating from high school.

On the Horizon

Hines is a co-lead on the \$55 million U of I Innovative Agriculture and Marketing Partnership grant which should roll out in spring 2024. A group of UI Extension colleagues continue to conduct farm succession programming and Hines is working with colleagues from Utah State Extension to develop training for U of I educators to help streamline the program for Idaho. Farm succession was identified on the statewide needs assessment survey as a vital issue for Idaho's ag community.

Manker is looking forward to working with Head Start preschool youth on a series of 4-H Cloverbud lessons and 4-H Cooking 101 with summer school students.

Jerome County 4-H will host a Winter Carnival and provide educational AG/STEM activities to youth and adults in the community. Spring break workshops for youth aged 5 or older will be held, for both 4-H and non-4-H participants.