

# EXTENSION TRENDS: **NEZ PERCE COUNTY**

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## 2023 By the Numbers

- **1,026** direct contacts
- **617** youth participants
- **91** volunteers
- **372** volunteer hours
- **\$74,638** extramural funding

## Our Advisory Council

Special thanks to our volunteers who help shape programming and inform the work we do for UI Extension in Nez Perce County: Tom Conklin, Clint Zenner, Steve Riggers, Maria Garvey, Barb Matteson, Shawn Smith, Carol Thompson, Janis Forsmann, Betty Peters, Lynn Johnson, Kerry Sanford and Angie Beck.

## UI Extension Educators



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## 2023 Impact

UI Extension, Nez Perce County continues to work with Lewiston Library Youth Services to provide 4-H's Out of the Box learning labs for homeschool youth and youth in their afterschool program. Faculty and staff partnered to teach two sessions of Skillet Creations cooking classes and a Jr. Master Gardener learning lab.

Educator Kathee Tift is a member of UI Extension's Dementia Friends team and delivered dementia information sessions in Lewiston, Winchester, Cottonwood and Sandpoint. Participants agreed they felt more confident and equipped as community members to recognize the signs and offer support to the needs of a person living with dementia.

Nine Advanced Master Gardeners contributed 372 volunteer hours to deliver 17 diagnostic plant clinics and manned a booth at the Nez Perce County Fair. Horticulture Associate Danielle Evans provided classes on houseplants, native versus invasive plants, and growing and harvesting fruits and vegetables, and participated in several community health fairs.

Administrative Associate/Advanced Master Food Safety Advisor Shawna Hobson taught online and in-person classes on fermentation, dehydration and the preparation of sauerkraut and salsa. She tested more than 70 pressure canners for proper functioning and responded to 399 client questions about approved methods and techniques for safe food preservation.

Educator Doug Finkelburg co-authored one peer-reviewed publication, gave 12 presentations and facilitated nine engagement activities reaching 747 contacts. He served on 11 committees and participated in the implementation of the Pacific Northwest Herbicide Resistance Initiative to address herbicide resistant weeds. He continues to serve a leading role in the Extension component of the Innovative Agricultural Marketing Partnership (IAMP) grant.

## 4-H in Nez Perce County

New 4-H Coordinator Mary Kate Myers stepped in to lead a very productive 4-H program through their annual calendar of activities. In 2023, the Nez Perce County 4-H program had 415 active members enrolled in 550 projects. Eighty-two volunteers provided leadership and resources for 23 4-H clubs whose members completed and showed approximately 495 projects at the county fair. With support from the Idaho Forest Group, an online auction component was held for the market animal sale and livestream of 4-H youth showing their animals.

## On the Horizon

Tift is developing a series of healthy pro-aging classes with FCS educators statewide. Aging with Intent and Meaning (AIM) is focused on informed decision-making and pre-planning regarding contemporary topics related to aging. She will also complete the training to become a certified Poverty Coach and member of the UI Extension Poverty-Informed Task Force by completing a poverty competency assessment.

Finkelburg will continue to emphasize crop rotation and diversification strategies to minimize risks and maximize cash crop production potential. He will collaborate with local soil-water conservation districts to evaluate post-harvest weed seed control strategies and host continuing education events for crop producers and agricultural professionals as well as supporting Master Gardener education efforts and ISDA Pesticide License recertification events.