

# EXTENSION TRENDS: **OWYHEE COUNTY**

University of Idaho Extension, Owyhee County • [www.uidaho.edu/owyhee](http://www.uidaho.edu/owyhee)



## 2023 By the Numbers

- **6,415** direct contacts
- **2,352** youth participants
- **71** volunteers
- **950** volunteer hours
- **\$26,500** extramural funding

## Our Advisory Council

Special thanks to our volunteers who help shape programming and inform the work we do for UI Extension in Owyhee County: Scott Bunderson, Lath Calloway, Amy Carson, David Carson, Deidre Erwin, Melanie Harper, Jerry Hoagland, Rex Hoagland, Mary Huff, Rosa Jacabo, Sharla Jensen, Ginger Loucks, Hannah Mamer, Brad McIntyre, Joe Merrick, Janet Miller, Jody Moos, Chad Nettleton, Heather Packer, Ken Price, Doug Rutan, Wendy Steinberg, Norm Stewart, Moss Strong, Hailee Tilton, Olga Valero and Shane Wetzel.

## UI Extension Educators



**K. Scott Jensen**  
208-896-4104  
[scottj@uidaho.edu](mailto:scottj@uidaho.edu)



**Surine Greenway**  
208-896-4104  
[surineg@uidaho.edu](mailto:surineg@uidaho.edu)

## 2023 Impact

The UI Extension, Owyhee County Master Food Safety Advisor program recruited and trained 11 first-year volunteers in 2023. In addition, 10 Advanced Master Food Safety Advisors were retained and educated through ongoing training. More than 524 hours were donated to the program, valued at more than \$14,561.96 reaching consumers with food safety education. These experiences contribute to food quality, food safety and preservation education for clientele. Expanding Extension's outreach to consumers includes food preservation and food handling practices that contribute to healthier individuals and families. The Owyhee County Master Food Safety Advisors led 213 adult participants through 12 hands-on food preservation classes in 2023.

Twenty-nine individuals completed artificial insemination training in the Treasure Valley, including 16 who were from outside of Idaho. Additionally, six individuals completed AI training held in the Magic Valley. Six of the program participants requested to take the Idaho State AI license exam and completed it successfully. Twenty-eight students have an interest in beef cattle and artificial insemination will give them access to the best genetics available around the world. It also provides a cost savings of up to \$75/insemination versus hiring a technician to do the arm service. The wage for an inseminator on a dairy is typically 25-30% higher than that of milkers and general dairy laborers.

## 4-H in Owyhee County

Owyhee County 4-H recruited and trained eight new certified 4-H volunteers. In addition, 42 certified 4-H volunteers were retained from previous years of service. A total of 293 youth were enrolled in Owyhee County 4-H with market swine and market sheep projects continuing to lead in enrollment numbers, followed closely by Cloverbuds. Leathercraft and horse projects surpassed market goats and market beef in enrollment numbers in 2023. 4-H members also participated in baking and cake decorating, sewing and quilting, shooting sports, breeding livestock, small animals, cooking, photography, Know Your Government, gardening, and woodworking projects. Shooting sports, communications and expressive arts project area enrollments and exhibit numbers are on the rise and prove to be a draw. Of the 317 4-H and FFA youth that exhibited at the Owyhee County Fair in 2023, 248 sold a market animal in the Owyhee County Junior Livestock Sale, which totaled \$610,781 (before add-ons).

## On the Horizon

Get the Dish! A Virtual Cooking Series began in 2023 with partners from Extension in Idaho, Georgia, Tennessee and North Carolina. Adults are educated regarding food-focused preparation and safety content. In live Zoom presentations, 296 participants have attended. Based on the success of this program, the team will continue implementation in 2024, with classes already being designed.

Work is ongoing on a range project using dormant season grazing to reduce fine fuels and fire risk. Following five years of grazing treatments, data shows a positive effect on perennial grasses.

Implementation of the new 4-H Fridays day camp series will begin in the 2023-24 4-H year, along with a focus to develop stronger livestock contest (livestock skill-a-thon, livestock quiz bowl and livestock judging) and STEM programs in Owyhee County.