

EXTENSION TRENDS: **USTER COUNTY**

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2023 By the Numbers

- **4,733** direct contacts
- **103** youth participants
- **36** volunteers
- **\$8,250** extramural funding

Our Advisory Council

Special thanks to our volunteers who help shape programming and inform the work we do for UI Extension in Custer County.

UI Extension Educator



Sarah Baker
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2023 Impact

Educator Sarah Baker empowered young beef producers to become profitable and successful through the Idaho Young Cattle Producers Conference, presenting an end-product quality beef presentation and a beef cutting demonstration at the annual statewide event.

She taught adults about cost-saving ways to fuel their families with healthy, nutritious and affordable beef through beef cutting demonstration workshops including Beef Up Your Fall and Beef Up Your New Year workshops. Meat cutting demonstrations were also conducted to educate clientele about the importance of end-product quality locally and regionally, including breaking down a beef carcass at a regional Beef Quality Assurance program.

Baker improved consumer perceptions and increased marketing opportunities for beef producers through the Beef Quality Assurance certification and training program by serving as the state co-coordinator and a certified trainer. She also provided up-to-date information for livestock producers within the county by hosting and presenting information at local beef schools. She promoted and conducted agriculture education in every classroom through Ag Week programming, including the local Homeschool Association.

4-H in Custer County

Three new certified volunteer leaders joined a group of veteran leaders to provide hands-on learning opportunities and empower youth to become responsible, productive citizens through the rural 4-H program. Two new non-livestock projects were introduced to the county, which brought 20 new youth to the program. They exhibited their 4-H photography and leatherwork projects at both the local county fair and Eastern Idaho State Fair.

Local teens participated and provided leadership for a District Leadership Club by holding a teen social event to discuss statewide events and opportunities and hosting a 4-H rocket workshop for youth at the local county fair. They also attended and participated in a District Teen Leadership Club Opening Social and a Teen Spring Retreat which focused on public speaking. One local member served his second year on the STAC planning committee, served as a runner during the Jr. Livestock Sale at the Eastern Idaho State Fair, and was part of a group of teens who gave the keynote workshop at I-LEADS this fall.

Livestock numbers continued to grow in 2023 with 16 new market livestock projects. This also included a new 4-H Poultry Club and 4-H Poultry Show at the Custer County Fair.

On the Horizon

Serving the third largest Idaho county (in land mass) has its challenges traveling large distances to reach clientele in rural communities in Challis, Mackay, Stanley, Clayton and all acres in between. However, partnerships with local businesses, agriculture groups, volunteers and county leaders enables UI Extension to stretch limited funds and staff to offer educational programming and resources to community members. The UI Extension, Custer County office is excited to continue to offer research-based education and bring the University of Idaho to local citizens in 2024.