

EXTENSION TRENDS: **BANNOCK COUNTY**

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2022 By the Numbers

- **9,011** direct contacts
- **2,351** youth participants
- **46** volunteers
- **1,380** volunteer hours
- **\$53,998** extramural funding

Our Advisory Council

Special thanks to our volunteers who help shape programming and inform the work we do for UI Extension in Bannock County: Curtis Austin, Evelyn Hitchcock, Kevin Koester and Cody Miller.

UI Extension Educators



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2022 Impact

Educator Reed Findlay has continued studying the thrips insect pest in alfalfa crops. He extended his research by studying the effects thrips feeding has on alfalfa quality in a greenhouse setting. This will enable him to study this insect in a more controlled environment. Findlay is also assisting U of I Agronomist Jared Spackman in studying the effects of various fertilizer regimes on cereal crops. The cereals team has also initiated a study to determine the effects of previous crop rotations on soil moisture retention in dryland farming areas. Findlay has also partnered to determine how teff grass responds to herbicides. Findlay has also completed the second year of an apple grafting research project to study the effect of bud placement on graft viability.

FCS Educator and Eat Smart Idaho administrator Kathryn Hickok joined UI Extension, Bannock County in 2022 and is settling into this dynamic role. She has established numerous partnerships in Pocatello, and is collaborating with neighboring counties. A new gleaning project resulted in over 200 pounds of fruit donated before the end of the summer. Hickok is eager to streamline this project in 2023 with volunteers and resources to make picking and transporting fruit easier.

Eat Smart Idaho's Smarter Lunchroom, a movement to promote healthy school cafeterias, will begin in Pocatello schools in 2023. A colorful mural was installed in the cafeteria at J.R. Simplot Elementary in American Falls and the school also adopted other interventions, from renaming menu items to a seasoning station and colorful posters. Healthy Pantries has been introduced to multiple food pantry locations. The team reached 909 youth and 200 adults through classes and outreach opportunities.

4-H in Bannock County

The 4-H Camp has grown to over 100 youth attending from Bannock, Butte and Teton counties. A camp teen counselor training was held with almost 20 youth attendees from the Eastern District. This effort allows teens to network, plan and gain leadership skills useful at camp and in their future. The 21st Century After School program in School District 25 is continuing. 4-H professionals are providing robotics programming to eight elementary schools. Schools are reached via in-school enrichment with STEM programs like stomp rockets, dissection labs and robotics. Other projects in FCS are being taught as well.

On the Horizon

Hickok is a member of the Early Learning Coalition with United Ways and is contributing nutrition information to local daycare settings. She plans to collaborate with IdahoSTARS to provide food-handling instruction to daycare instructors. She intends to offer a variety of nutrition and food preservation classes in 2023 including a food preservation series in Rigby. She plans to team up with Idaho State University Continuing Education to offer food preservation courses at a reduced cost.

The small grains team will initiate research into the use of annual alfalfa cultivars as a source of nitrogen fertilizer for subsequent cereal crops. This research will help growers manage the increasing costs of fertilizer inputs in a sustainable manner.

An AmeriCorps volunteer is being pursued for 2023 to expand 4-H outreach. A grant has allowed for the hiring of a full-time employee who currently provides in-school programming to schools.