

EXTENSION TRENDS: **BLAINE COUNTY**

University of Idaho Extension, Blaine County • www.uidaho.edu/blaine



2022 By the Numbers

- **2,311** direct contacts
- **871** youth participants
- **18** volunteers
- **214** volunteer hours
- **\$322,442** extramural funding

Our Advisory Council

Special thanks to our volunteers who help shape programming and inform the work we do for UI Extension in Blaine County: Dick Fosbury, Pat Purdy, Amy Mattias, Lynea Petty, Tracy Green, Susan Kranz and Pamela Donoso.

UI Extension Educators



Grant Loomis
208-788-5585
gloomis@uidaho.edu



Chandra Vaughan
208-788-5585
cvaughan@uidaho.edu

2022 Impact

The board game Pest Friends is a simulation of the decisions and consequences affecting agricultural pest managers. The educator takes on the role of a facilitator, teaching the rules and keeping track of what is happening in the field and the final score. Players take on the role of a pest management team who are given the task of producing the healthiest crop possible while using their limited resources efficiently. Each choice the players make may affect the crop, organisms living in the field, and their final score. Initial evaluation data has shown 100% of participants reported that this training was more engaging than traditional training.

Educator Grant Loomis worked on a regional Magic Valley soil health survey and cotton-based underwear was buried in three sites in Blaine County as part of the study. As a measurement of the health of the soil, the underwear would be consumed by the microbial community in the soil.

4-H in Blaine County

The United States Forest Service partnered UI Extension, Blaine County 4-H to offer, for the fifth year in a row, Adventure Quest summer day camp at the Sawtooth National Recreation Area. Adventure Quest provides fun recreational pursuits combined with learning about the natural environment. Past activities include field trips to look at macro-invertebrates in a creek, mountain biking, building beaver dams, wilderness survival scenarios and a trip to Redfish Lake. In 2022, short hikes, bike rides, wilderness survival skills, fire ecology and a trip to the 4-H camp to learn about wildlife, plants, and fish was conducted. These activities were designed to inspire youth to explore and learn about the ecology of mountains, rivers, and forests, while being immersed in the beautiful landscape of the Sawtooth National Recreation Area. On the last day of camp, there was an optional trip to Redfish Lake or rafting. An average of 22 youth participate each year, with assistance from three USDA Forest Service Sawtooth Nation Forest grants totaling \$10,910.08. There was also great community support in traditional animal projects with 175 projects and 14 adult volunteers.

On the Horizon

Upcoming afterschool 4-H programming and day camps include Magic of Electricity; Outside the Box – Art; Outside the Box – Gardening; Nature Adventures; Spike Prime Robotics; Rocketry; Archery; Embryology; Wildlife Day Camp; Drone Camp and Livestock Education Day.