

EXTENSION TRENDS: **CANYON COUNTY**

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2022 By the Numbers

- **13,748** direct contacts
- **8,680** youth participants
- **221** volunteers
- **6,657** volunteer hours
- **\$777,997** extramural funding

Our Advisory Council

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

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2022 Impact

Canyon County has seen unprecedented population growth and UI Extension has worked to meet that need by expanding existing programs and implementing new programs.

The Senior Produce Program created impact in a variety of ways. Most notably was the impact in physical and financial health, community togetherness, and support for local vendors. In 2022, 1,658 households were reached by providing \$6 in vouchers for seniors over the age of 60 to use at the Caldwell Farmers' Market. Participants noted the impact on their budgets, with one saying, "That's \$6 I didn't have to spend on gas." Another noted that the market, "Wanted you well," which encouraged their healthy habits. The seniors also noted that they expanded their circle of friends by coming to the market and enjoyed knowing where their food was coming from, and that the money they were spending was benefitting the vendors.

In 2022, 18 new Master Gardeners completed the program. The Plant Clinic was very busy answering gardening questions. Gardening instruction continues to be provided in-person and online. The Jr. Master Gardener program grew with more exciting classes planned for next year. The social media team continues to post gardening information several times a week.

4-H in Canyon County

With over 668 youth members in 54 clubs, Canyon County 4-H continues to be one of the largest 4-H community club programs in Idaho. Youth participate in projects like livestock, pets, foods and nutrition, leadership, art, shooting sports, and more. Current and newly joining members can complete a project in six-to-eight weeks through the STEP program. Spring and summer day camps are held at a variety of sites on a variety of topics. In 2022, day camps provided opportunities for 115 youth to learn about STEM, art, foods and shooting sports. Many other day camps were held around the county at schools and community centers, focused on STEAM projects and reaching underserved youth.

In 2022, Canyon County 4-H received over \$737,997.95 in grant funds from Idaho Health and Welfare. With these funds, programming has been expanded to more afterschool programs, libraries and community centers. Topics that youth can explore include STEM, art, mindfulness, gardening, and many more topics through 4-H enrichment activities, events, and programs. Over 5,590 youth were reached in 2022.

On the Horizon

Focus for the next year will include supporting diverse audiences, implementing new programming and learning about the needs of the county. Livestock and small farm programs will include a two-day calf management class teaching farmers and ranchers how to properly feed cattle before and after pregnancy. A 7-week farm succession program will teach farm owners how to properly pass their property to the next generation and plans are under way for the Living on the Land program.

FCS programming will focus on expanding the Diabetes Prevention Program to Latinx families by offering it in Spanish. Additional program efforts will focus on youth mental health, stress management and more.

Horticulture programs will focus on arboriculture, reaching diverse audiences and expanding traditional program reach.

The Juntos 4-H program in Canyon County will continue to grow. Plans are being made to expand partnerships and focus on training volunteers to not only reach more youth, but have quality impact in their lives.