

EXTENSION TRENDS: **CASSIA COUNTY**

University of Idaho Extension, Cassia County • www.uidaho.edu/cassia



2023 By the Numbers

- **10,016** direct contacts
- **1,173** youth participants
- **73** volunteers
- **3,350** volunteer hours
- **\$6,500** extramural funding

Our Advisory Council

Special thanks to our volunteers who help shape programming and inform the work we do for UI Extension in Cassia County: Brandon Brakenbury, Bob Kunau, Michael Ottley, Leonard Beck, Jodi Hepworth, Tamara Garcia, Beverly Searle, David Mabey, Jeanne Allen, Peene Main, Stephanie Curtis, Mike Allen, Amy Christopherson, Debi Barnes, Al Barrus, Kent Searle, Dixie Tate and Sharon Hardy.

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2023 Impact

Twelve Master Food Safety Advisors provide assistance with teaching classes, testing canning equipment and answering critical food safety/food preservation questions in Cassia County. These volunteers contributed approximately 200 hours to assisting UI Extension with food safety/food preservation related issues.

Healthy Meals for Busy People continued this year with the hopes of encouraging more homes to cook healthy meals at home. The program received an Innovative Project Grant that allowed presenters to provide the classes for free to underserved audiences. Eighty-two people participated in this program focused on the importance of meal planning, healthy sheet pan meals and healthy air fryer cooking.

Each year UI Extension, Cassia County is asked to participate in the 4th grade Idaho History Day. This year educators and 4-H staff taught cheese making and the history of dairy and butter making to over 200 youth in the county.

A six-week Farm Succession class was held with 11 attendees and another half day class for Dairy West members. Educator Joel Packham also taught a six-week farm business management classes. Packham and Jerome County colleagues began a new cover crop related project looking at using a grain drill to plant cover crops into growing corn. The use of a drill will allow better seed to soil contact and a more efficient method of plant over broadcasting seed by airplane.

4-H in Cassia County

Cassia County enjoyed a great 2023 4-H year. The livestock youth/project numbers stayed high with great support from community members and the Cassia County 4-H/FFA Market Animal Sale Committee. Excellent 4-H livestock volunteers show youth how to properly train, feed, groom and care for livestock projects varying from small livestock to the traditional large animal projects. The 4-H program assistant stayed busy throughout the 2022-23 school year with afterschool STEAM project materials. They also spent the end of the school year bringing STEM programs to classroom programs throughout Cassia County. During summer programming, AmeriCorps volunteers presented 4-H programs in partnership with the College of Southern Idaho, Burley Public Library, Cassia County School District and Cassia Regional Hospital.

On the Horizon

This year 4-H will continue to focus on providing STEAM curriculum to afterschool programming in the county. Education will also be directed toward homeschool communities.

Farm succession planning courses as well as other agriculture related programs will be promoted. The Family and Consumer Sciences program will continue working with Master Food Safety Advisors to bring up-to-date information to the community related to food preservation and food safety. Classes directed to senior citizens related to healthy eating habits will also be provided.