



University of Nevada, Reno
Extension
College of Agriculture,
Biotechnology & Natural Resources

Extension | Elko County

Annual Report | Fiscal Year 2024 – 2025

Extension is a unit of the University of Nevada, Reno's College of Agriculture, Biotechnology & Natural Resources engaged in Nevada communities, bringing research-based knowledge to address critical community needs. It is a county-state-federal partnership providing practical education to people, businesses and communities.

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Program Impacts

4-H Youth Development

In 2025, 478 young people participated in the Elko County 4-H Youth Development program. More than 58 youth and adult volunteers led clubs and project activities, teaching life skills. The 13 community and project clubs met in Elko, Wells, Jiggs, Lamoille, Ruby Valley, Spring Creek, Tuscarora and Pine Valley.

Elko County 4-H offers an array of programming, focused on helping young people discover their sparks (passions & interests), gain a sense of belonging, and build relationships with youth and caring adults, which leads to youth thriving and being prepared for work and life. Elko County 4-H partnered with Elko Vet Clinic to offer in-clinic vet shadowing opportunities each month. 4-Hers shadow veterinarians as they administer vaccinations or emergency care, such as surgeries. One of the veterinarians is the 4-H Veterinary Science project leader and taught biosecurity, injection, and lab-testing workshops. State 4-H Livestock Coordinator, Rebecca Glocknitzer and 4-H Vet Science project leader, Dr. Brandee Kreiser, facilitated a "Day in the Life of a Vet" day camp. Twenty-four youth ages 9-19 learned about veterinary equipment, how to administer injections, how to bandage properly, and how to interpret



X-rays. Eleven Cloverbuds, aged 5-8 years, learned about the safe handling of animals and the basics of veterinary science.

Community collaborations are key to the success of the Elko County 4-H program. In June, the Extension collaborated with the California Interpretive Trail Center to host a two-day "Hitting the Trail" day camp, focusing on pioneers and Nevada's history. Eleven campers, both 4-H members and non-4-H members, participated in pioneer games and crafts, watercolor painting, candle-making, atlatl throwing, and decision-making activities such as how to pack a wagon. We ended the second day by inviting the campers' families to join us for dinner, homemade ice cream (made by the campers), and square dancing. Extension also partnered with Nevada Outdoor School and the Children's Cabinet to host *Little Choices, Big Impact*. Community organizations hosted stations on planting seeds, beekeeping, taste-testing flavored water, worm composting, exploring wildlife, and physical activity for 100 parents and children.

To instill confidence and communication skills necessary to make responsible decisions and develop internal strengths to resist risky behaviors, Extension partnered with Communities in Schools, Adobe Middle School site. Brittany Marich, Elko County 4-H Professional, taught more than 10 hours of 4-H Health Rocks! programming for 32 seventh and eighth graders. 4-H Health Rocks! is based on the Positive Youth Development model, incorporating life skill development and decision-making to reduce tobacco, alcohol, e-cigarette/vaping and drug use in young people. Youth reported that they enjoyed the hands-on activities, information on the dangers of vaping, and having a safe space to voice their concerns and challenges.

Strengthening Families

Heart & Hope Family Violence Intervention Program

Nevada ranks #2 in the nation for women killed by men due to domestic violence. In Elko County, 405 domestic violence victimizations occurred in 2017, with a rate of 7.7 per 1,000 persons, which is much higher than the national rate of 4.5 per 1,000 persons. The 2012 Elko County Extension needs assessment indicated that domestic violence prevention is a high-priority issue for county residents. The Heart & Hope Family Violence Prevention Program provides Elko County families with resources and skills to strengthen relationships and reduce the risk of future violence.



Heart & Hope Family Violence Intervention Program targets parents and children who have experienced domestic violence. The program teaches communication, emotion identification and regulation, problem-solving, healthy relationships, social/emotional skills, and strengthening families. Since 2015, 76 adults and 160 Elko County youth have participated in the program. Staff also provide training to stakeholders, school counselors, and nonprofit organizations on how to work with adult and child survivors of domestic violence, using a trauma-informed approach.

Domestic Violence High-Risk Teams

Coordinated community responses, involving multiple systems (e.g., law enforcement, criminal justice system, victim, and child services, etc.) that are victim-centered, increase victim safety and participation in the criminal process, increase arrest and prosecution of the offender, and reduce recidivism. Law enforcement agencies that conduct victim danger risk assessments when responding to domestic violence calls prevent fatalities. However, a coordinated community response structure must be in place to support victims.

In 2025, the Domestic Violence High-Risk Team realized the following accomplishments:

- Implemented the DA-LE (Danger Assessment-Law Enforcement), a questionnaire used by an officer summoned to a domestic violence call to determine if the victim is at high risk of being killed by an intimate partner, across all law enforcement agencies in the county, ensuring standardized use and appropriate referral of cases.
- Achieved 100% completion of strangulation training for all law enforcement officers in the county.
- Facilitated the development of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Committee Against Domestic Violence and the Department of Children and Family Services, improving identification and response to domestic violence cases involving families.
- Documented a measurable increase in case load, demonstrating that the DA-LE is successfully identifying more victims at risk and connecting them to critical resources.

Agriculture and Horticulture

Elko County residents look to Extension for pesticide application safety education and certification and horticulture education. Extension assists clientele in identifying plants, weeds, and insects, diagnosing plant diseases and recommending actions homeowners and agricultural producers can take to address plant, weed and insect problems. In addition, Extension works with livestock producers, state and federal agencies and other stakeholders on multiple efforts in Elko County related to effective livestock grazing management on rangelands.

The Nevada Master Gardener program has expanded to Elko County. Community members interested in volunteering to educate the public about gardening participated in the Home Horticulture Certification program and the Master Gardener Certification program. Elko County has one volunteer, Master Gardener Amber Huff. Amber co-led the Great Basin 4-H Pollinator Club in planting flowers and plants that would attract pollinators, co-organized and promoted the Elko County Compost Awareness Week, and presented educational workshops on growing indoor plants and outdoor flowers, terrariums and seed starting.



Elko County Extension offered the following agriculture, pesticide and horticulture classes in 2024-2025:

- Agriculture Business Builder Award Program
- Bumblebee Bioblitz
- Cattlemen's Update
- Cover Crops for Gardens and Small Farms
- Enhanced Biosecurity for Livestock Producers
- Grasshoppers in the West
- Grow Your Own, Nevada gardening series
- Home Horticulture Certification
- Invasive Annual Grass Management
- Landscaping with Native Plants
- Master Gardener Certification
- Pesticide Application Safety Certification (Spring & Fall)
- Rangeland Monitoring (Rancher's Monitoring Guide, Grazing Response Index)
- Rangeland Plant Identification (Grasses and Forbs)

- Soil Health for Healthy Plants
- Spring Weeds
- Virtual Fence for Rangeland Livestock Grazing Management
- Water Conservation and Integrated Pest Management: Synergies for Sustainable Agriculture

Because University of Nevada Cooperative Extension's State Specialist for Rangeland Livestock/Wildlife Interactions (Meiman) is based in Elko County, Extension is actively involved in numerous Rangeland and Natural Resources efforts in the county, including but not limited to those described below.

Collaborative Rangeland Management for Desired Outcomes

Meiman was actively involved in at least 9 different collaborative groups and efforts related to rangeland management. This involved participation in approximately 40 different meetings in the past year providing the opportunity for Meiman to make 4 formal presentations and approximately 20 informal presentations regarding a wide variety of topics including, but not limited to rangeland management, rangeland plant growth and response to herbivory, rangeland monitoring, livestock grazing management, riparian area monitoring/management, and virtual fencing. These educational efforts reached over 400 individuals (unique contacts) and the majority of these occurred in Elko County. It is important to consider that even a subset of the individuals reached by these efforts are responsible for the management of millions of acres of rangeland. The primary collaborative groups include the Winecup-Gamble Ranch Outcome Based Grazing Demonstration, Shoesole Management Group, Stewardship Alliance of Northeast Elko County, Results Oriented Grazing for Ecological Resilience, the Northeastern Nevada Stewardship Group, the Deeth Allotment Working Group, and the Intermountain West Joint Venture.

Managing Riparian Areas & Wetlands for Desired Conditions with Site-Appropriate Expectations

Meiman also worked with individual permittees and small groups of permittees, Rangeland Management Specialists with the USDI-Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and USDA-Forest Service on questions, issues and concerns on various allotments in the past year. Many of these efforts involved concerns and questions about the condition of riparian and wetland habitat as related to domestic livestock grazing management and some are associated with streams that do, or could support Lahontan cutthroat trout. Meiman worked as a member of a group on an environmental assessment that was being developed by the Nevada State Office of the USDI Bureau of Land Management for grazing management flexibilities for Lahontan Cutthroat Trout. In particular, Meiman focused on efforts to ensure proper application of short-term monitoring indicators (streambank alteration, stubble height and woody browse utilization) along with necessary long-term monitoring for grazing management. Through these and other efforts, Meiman was involved in over 30 meetings and made around 20 informal presentations that reached approximately 250 individuals. In addition, he did make 6 formal presentations about livestock grazing management for maintenance or improvement of riparian habitat conditions that reached approximately 150 individuals. Importantly, these efforts included work with a public land livestock grazing permittee and the land management agency resulting in mitigating a potential conflict and initiating a cooperative approach to assess and monitor livestock grazing and riparian, and Lahontan cutthroat trout habitat.

Invasive Plant Management on Rangelands

In the past year, Meiman continued working on a study initiated in 2021 looking at large-scale, aerial applications of indaziflam, imazapic and the two herbicides combined, for restoration of sagebrush grasslands invaded by cheatgrass. Although none of the field sites are actually in Elko County, the majority of them are only 3-5 mi. outside Elko County and the work is very applicable to much of the county. Meiman also continues to work as a member of the core team to develop a multi-state Invasive Annual Grass Technology Transfer effort led by the University of Wyoming. A sub-award was received by Meiman at UNR and the group has been developing curricula for 3 different levels of workshops for invasive annual grass

management. In June of 2025, Meiman and this multi-state group hosted a 2-day field workshop and tour based in Elko County with tour stops also in Eureka County.

Health and Nutrition

SNAP-Ed

The Elko County Extension Office was able to secure funding to hire a full-time Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program-Education Coordinator, Ciana Parker taught 161 elementary school students nutrition and physical activity lessons. Community partners included Grammar #2 Elementary, Elko Band Afterschool Program, Elko Mybrary, and Southside Elementary. Ciana attended 8 school events, health fairs, community events, promoting healthy eating and physical activity and reaching 793 youth and 121 adults.



Radon

Extension's Radon Education Program educates Nevadans about the health risks of elevated radon levels in the home. The program offers literature, maps, educational presentations and low-cost radon test kits. Radon is a naturally occurring radioactive gas with no odor, color, or taste and comes from the soil. Radon gas moves through the soil into the air, where it harmlessly spreads into outdoor air or enters buildings through the foundation and becomes trapped inside. When it enters a building and gets trapped inside, high levels can cause lung cancer. Radon is the number one cause of lung cancer in non-smokers. More than 21,000 Americans die of radon-related lung cancer each year. All homes, offices, schools and preschools should be tested for radon. Free radon test kits were offered to Elko County residents in January and February 2025. In 2024-2025, 29 radon test kits were distributed.

Community Development

The Nevada Economic Assessment Project is a team of Extension economic and community development faculty and staff who published four reports to provide Elko County communities with research and analysis of emerging issues.

[Housing Data Profile Elko County, Nevada](#) is designed to help local and state agencies use the data for comprehensive planning. Four infographic fact sheets including Demographic and Economic Characteristics, Housing Supply, Housing Demand and Housing Affordability Analysis are included in the report.



[Foundational Public Health Services in Suburban, Rural, And Frontier Nevada](#) The purpose of this report is to provide Nevada's suburban, rural, and frontier county governments, community partners, and public health authorities with a baseline of public health services in their county and their regional counties utilizing a nationally recognized framework.

[South Fork State Recreation Area Infographics Packet](#) and **[Wild Horse State Recreation Area Infographics Packet](#)** These fact sheets present the comprehensive findings from a survey across Nevada's state parks under the Nevada Division of State Parks, covering Demographics, Trip Quality, Park Performance, Visitation Patterns, Recreation Activities, and Planning Priorities.

Fiscal Overview

Fiscal Year 2025 Expenses

State	\$180,927
Federal	116,138
County	282,029
Grants	292,486
Gifts	16,878
Other	9,058
Total	\$897,515

Fiscal Year 2025 County Funds Summary

Opening Balance	\$340,610
Revenue	245,246
Expenses	282,029
Ending Balance	\$303,827

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