

Conserve

News from Lemhi Regional Land Trust & the Salmon School Garden

From Farm to Future: 2026 Agriculture Week

Agriculture Week 2026 gave us the perfect opportunity to look ahead—right to the next generation who will carry forward the legacy of Lemhi and Custer County, working lands. From ranches and farms to open spaces and wildlife habitat, the future of our communities depends on the youth who are learning, exploring, and building a connection to the land today.

This year, we were excited to spend time in local classrooms and learning groups, sharing hands-on experiences that bring agriculture to life. With the Pioneer Elementary 1st graders, we dug into the basics—literally! Students learned about the different parts of a plant by using vegetables like carrots, celery, tomatoes, and lettuce. Each item helped demonstrate a specific plant part—carrots represented roots, celery represented stems, tomatoes represented fruits, snap peas represented seeds and lettuce represented leaves. Using these familiar foods made it easier for students to understand how plants grow and which parts we eat every day, while sparking curiosity and engagement.



Salmon Homeschool Group: Cattle Brand Workshop



Salmon Pioneer Elementary 5th Grade: Beef Technology Workshop

We also had the opportunity to work with Salmon's homeschool group and students at the Tendoy School, where we explored a unique and important part of ranching heritage: cattle brands. Students learned how to identify cattle brands by recognizing different shapes and symbols, and practiced distinguishing between them. After learning how brands are read, the students designed their own unique brands and then used pipe cleaners to build and shape their designs. This activity gave them a creative, hands-on way to apply what they learned while connecting to a longstanding ranching tradition.

To end the week, we took part in the Pioneer Elementary 5th Grade Beef Field Day at the University of Idaho Nancy M. Cummings Research, Extension and Education Center, where students had the chance to experience the science and stewardship behind modern agriculture firsthand. Throughout the day, youth explored topics including DNA and how it influences cattle traits, gained a better understanding of animal husbandry, were introduced to new technologies shaping the future of the beef industry and they also learned the importance of proper cattle handling. Opportunities like this help bridge the gap between classroom learning and real-world application, giving students a deeper appreciation for the knowledge, care, and innovation that goes into raising livestock.

As we celebrate Agriculture Week, we are reminded that the future of Lemhi and Custer County's working lands is bright. It lives in classrooms, on ranches, and in the hands of young people who are eager to learn, grow, and carry on the traditions that shape our communities. From early experiences in the classroom to hands-on opportunities out in the field, these youth are gaining the knowledge, skills, and appreciation needed to steward our land and livestock. They are the next generation of producers, conservationists, and leaders who will help keep our landscapes productive and resilient. By investing in them today—through education, mentorship, and real-world experiences—we are ensuring that our agricultural heritage not only continues, but thrives for generations to come.



Salmon Pioneer Elementary 1st Grade: Parts of the Plants

Salmon School Garden Hosts First “Friend Raiser”: Well-Read Vase Workshop

The Well-Read Vase Workshop was a creative community “friendraiser” for the Salmon School Garden—an event focused on building relationships, growing community support, and connecting new people to the cause—that brought people together through books, flowers, and shared purpose. Participants transformed old books into handcrafted vases and filled them with dried flowers, exploring sustainability and hands-on creativity. The flowers used in the workshop were grown in the Salmon School Garden during last year’s growing season, then harvested and dried at the end of the season to be used later in this project. Old books that had reached the end of their original use were repurposed into “well-read” vases, giving them new life in a functional and artistic way.



Sixteen people attended the workshop, with participants ranging in age from ten to sixty and representing a variety of backgrounds. As the workshop took place, participants worked side by side, sharing tables, ideas, and conversation while creating their own unique vases. The mix of ages and experiences helped foster a welcoming and collaborative environment.

The Well-Read Vase Workshop highlighted how reuse, creativity, and community can come together in meaningful ways. In addition to the community workshop, we partnered with the Lemhi County Extension Office to bring this activity to their February 4-H Day Camp, where ten youth, ages five to ten, created their own book vases and explored hands-on creativity. It also served as a reminder that the Salmon School Garden is not only a place for growing plants, but also a space for connection and learning.

Be on the lookout for more fundraiser and garden events through our quarterly newsletter, social media, and around town. Our next event will be our Secret Garden Sale on Friday, April 15th and Annual Plant Sale on Saturday, April 16th—more information can be found on page 4.

A Season of Transition: LRLT Thanks Becca Aceto and Bob Russell

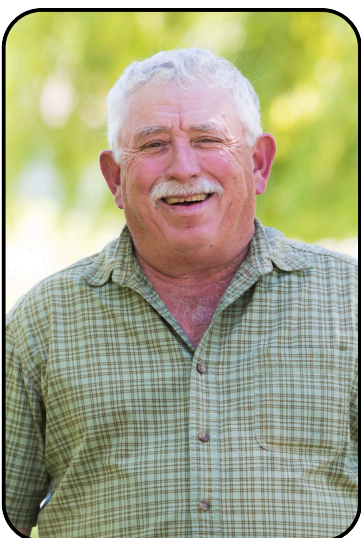
As Lemhi Regional Land Trust experiences a season of transition within our Board of Directors, we want to take a moment to recognize and thank two valued members as they step away from their leadership roles.

After four years of dedicated service, we extend our heartfelt thanks to Becca Aceto as she steps off the LRLT Board of Directors for her time on the Board and as the fundraising committee chair. During her time with us, Becca brought enthusiasm, thoughtful insight, and a genuine passion for protecting the landscapes and way of life we all cherish. We are grateful for the energy she shared with our organization and community, and we wish her the very best in her next adventures.



We also want to recognize Bob Russell for more than a decade of steadfast dedication to the LRLT Board of Directors. Over the years, Bob has helped guide the land trust through some of our strongest and most successful seasons as Board Chair and Co-Chair, while contributing to our finance and fundraising committees. His steady leadership, deep knowledge, and unwavering commitment have helped shape who we are today. Fortunately for LRLT, Bob will continue serving as an Emeritus, board member, serving as a special advisor and on the finance committee.

Board members play a vital role in the strength and success of our organization, providing oversight, governance, and strategic direction while serving as ambassadors within the community. Their leadership helps ensure accountability, sustainability, and a clear vision for the future. Through their dedication and service, board members support the organization’s mission and help guide its continued growth, creating a strong foundation for the work ahead. We couldn’t do what we do without them!



SATURDAY, MAY 16TH 10 AM - 1 PM Annual Plant Sale

SALMON SCHOOL GARDEN
1309 Minnie Street [behind Wild Side Sports]

All sales by donation!

- Flowers
- Squash
- Tomatoes

- Hanging Baskets
- Peppers
- Strawberries
- And Much More

SAVE THE DATE!

4th Grade Potatoes in the Classroom

Pioneer Elementary fourth graders crop in the Salmon School Garden is potatoes, which fits very well in their classroom discussions since they also study Idaho history.

Because we change students between planting and harvesting, it was decided it would be fun for the students to see how a potato grows. To accomplish this, students come to the Garden in February or early March. We meet in the greenhouse and discuss what is needed for a potato to grow. They have all the right answers - soil, water, sunshine and air - and of course a piece of potato with an eye!

Next then plant their seed potato in a two-liter pop bottle with drainage holes. They have one bottle as their "control" where they plant it correctly. In bottle number two they plant "eyes only"; in bottle number three they plant potato without eyes. In 2025, we had actual potato seeds, so that was included in experiment in bottle number four. Over the next six to eight weeks, the students measure how much their plants have grown or not and write down any visible differences. They then come back to the greenhouse, and we compare plants, pulling them out to see if we have any baby potatoes forming.

In May, they come back to the Garden for more fun with potatoes. We discuss the difference between tubers and root crops. Then there is a history of potato quiz bowl with buzzers! It gets a little wild, we then move over to the garden bed to plant. We plant a mix of red, yellow and purple potatoes. The students love digging in the dirt to plant the potatoes and usually there is at least a few worms found just for fun.

In September, a new class of students arrive for 4th grade potato fun. We discuss the different of variety of potatoes and what those varieties are used for. Then we head to the potato patch to dig. This group of students have no idea what color the potatoes will be so it is like an "Easter egg hunt" in September.

Their laughs and shouts when they discover potatoes come in different colors, especially purple, is fun. When everything is dug, it's back to the tables to sort the potatoes by size. We discuss how a farmer markets potatoes and hat potatoes are sold by size and quality. For the final fun at the Garden, they get to pick a potato and develop a 30 second commercial to market their potato. But the fun doesn't end there, in late fall, we take potatoes back to the classroom and discuss the role starch plays in potato storage and products. The students conduct some fun starch experiments with other products, and we wrap up with a mashed potato bar so the students can sample the potatoes.



Salmon Pioneer Elementary 4th Grade: Harvesting Potatoes



Salmon School Garden Committee Member Shannon Williams, supervising the potato harvest

ONLY 25 SPOTS AVAILABLE!

THE SECRET GARDEN SALE

FRIDAY | MAY 15 | 5:00-7:00PM



RESERVE YOUR SPOT TO SHOP THE SALMON SCHOOL GARDEN PLANT SALE EARLY, ALL SALES ARE BY DONATION!

COME ENJOY A BEVERAGE, FREE CANVAS PRODUCE BAG AND GOOD CONVERSATION!

RSVP AT (208)756-8879 OR SALMONSCHOOLGARDEN@GMAIL.COM

1309 MINNIE STREET, (BEHIND WILD SIDE SPORTS)

Conserve

Spring 2026

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Lemhi Regional Land Trust

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Salmon, Idaho 83467
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Click "Donate" or scan the QR code below to make a contribution to LRLT!



Lemhi Regional Land Trust



@lemhilandtrust



Salmon School Garden

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Click "Donate" or scan the QR code below to make a contribution to the SSG!



The Salmon School Garden Project



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