

MEETING MINUTES:

Teton Food and Farm Coalition Meeting

February 22, 2023

12:00-1:30 pm via Zoom

Guest presenter: Dr. Thomas Blaine, Ohio State University Extension

1. **Welcome & Introductions-** Jen Werlin, UI Extension Educator; Elaine Moehring, Master Gardener/4-H volunteer; Amy Mattias, Hallie Poirer (fairboard); Katie Guetz; Robert Sgroi (Teton Soil and Water Conservation District); Sandy Shuptrine (gardener/volunteer); Kimberly Holmes (TRLT)

2. **New Business:** “Climate Change Comes to Idaho: 2023 Update” by Dr. Thomas Blaine
 - Temps have been increasing by ¼ degree F per decade. Will be 2.8 degree F increase by 2060.
 - We’re in a La Niña pattern (past 4 years). It’s unknown when we’ll shift to a El Niño pattern. The jet stream meanders like a river and runs through Idaho. There are storms along the variable jet stream (high pressure in Pacific). In El Niño, there is low pressure in Pacific Ocean. The jet stream brings ridges and troughs. These can block storms/heat waves.
 - Idaho is warming. It won’t be uniform, but will be greater at night and in winters and have greater effects at lower elevations since elevation buffers some of the heat.
 - Stay informed of hardiness zone maps and make changes that allow for your garden to survive variable weather, droughts, and hard rain events.
 - Be prepared for invasive species.
 - Reduce water usage (irrigate early morning)
 - Encourage planting of trees in areas adjacent to plots/fields. Provides cooling effect, shading, captures and stores carbon/ absorbs CO2. Trees also release moisture into the air. Has more of a short-term effect—1 million trees over 30 years to capture 6 months of carbon.
 - Check out Patty Glick Gardening: “Gardeners Guide to Global Warming: Challenges and Solutions,” National Wildlife Federation.
 - See slide handouts and meeting recording:
<https://www.tetonfoodfarmcoalition.org/resources.html>

Adjourned 1:30pm

3. **Next Meeting:** **Wednesday, March 22 at 9am.** Discussion of food waste and rescue programs in Teton Valley and 2023 Grow-a-Row program efforts.