

POWER UP YOUR PROGRAM!

Boys & Girls Clubs of the Columbia Basin

Jessie Pelham
Child Nutrition Coordinator



Jessie joined the school year 2025–26 Power Up Your Program cohort to build on the Boys & Girls Clubs of the Columbia Basin's work to incorporate more fresh and local foods into their afterschool and summer meals programs. By building relationships with nearby farms, Jessie also wanted to expand opportunities for Club members to learn about new foods and local producers.

Jessie connected with the Moses Lake Farmers Market manager and arranged to partner on nutrition education activities at the market. For their first market visit, they brought a smoothie bike and more than 50 children enjoyed blending and tasting smoothies made with frozen berries, bananas, orange juice, and Greek yogurt. The Boys & Girls Clubs team has now attended three markets and served over 200 smoothies.



While attending the farmers market, Jessie made two new partnership connections—a local vegetable farmer from Gordon Gardens and a nutrition faculty member from Big Bend Community College. Jessie is exploring purchasing vegetables for taste tests or meals and opportunities to partner on new nutrition education activities.

The Joy of Farm Fresh Fruit



A field trip to Rowley & Hawkins Fruit Farm in Mesa, Washington was a big hit with Club members! Mark Rowley shared his energy and excitement and the kids happily loaded up on delicious apples. The Club has built a lasting relationship with Rowley & Hawkins and will feature more of their fruit on the summer menu!

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