

Nebraska Extension

Issue Teams



IN OUR GRIT, OUR GLORY™

Defining Issues

- **An opportunity, problem or challenge**
- **Require interdisciplinary approach**
- **Important to Nebraskans (and beyond)**
- **Actionable (valued outcomes in 3-5 years)**
- **Nebraska Extension is uniquely positioned**
- **Statewide deliverables**
- **Nimble**



Overarching Issue Team Principles

Demand Driven

Through a stakeholder survey refined by an Extension Professional survey, 18 issues emerged as key, priority concerns for Nebraskans.

Interdisciplinary

To more thoroughly address these issues, teams were populated with a variety of experts to create new solutions.

Partner Involvement

Community partners and other thought leaders were invited to join our teams and strengthen our capacity to successfully address the issues.



RESPONDING TO ISSUES THAT ARE IMPORTANT TO THE SUCCESS OF NEBRASKA



INCREASE THE QUALITY AND FREQUENCY OF LEARNING EXPERIENCES FOR CHILDREN

Over 7,500 adults (working with 65,000 youth) participated in Extension programming online and in-person.



ENGAGE UNDERSERVED YOUTH IN EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING TO BECOME MORE CONFIDENT AND CAPABLE ADULTS

Three pilot programs are engaging more Hispanic youth in 4-H.



PREPARE YOUTH FOR SUCCESS IN COLLEGE AND IN THEIR CHOSEN CAREER

1,900 8th graders engaged in college readiness programming and will be pre-admitted to the University of Nebraska- Lincoln through the Next Chapter Program.



DEVELOPING ENTREPRENEURIAL SKILLS IN YOUTH AND CONNECTING THEM TO NEW AND EXISTING BUSINESSES

99% of youth developed non-cognitive entrepreneurial skills such as risk-taking, creativity, and analyzing through our entrepreneurship programs.



DEVELOP COMMUNITIES WHERE PEOPLE WANT TO LIVE

33 Latino business startups in eight different communities.



INCREASE THE CAPACITY AND NUMBER OF LEADERS ACROSS NEBRASKA

2,300 hours of training for over 260 leaders across Nebraska to improve leadership effectiveness in their local communities.



CREATE COMMUNITY, SCHOOL AND HOME ENVIRONMENTS THAT PROMOTE HEALTHY LIFESTYLES FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH

86% of youth and their families are making healthier meals through 4-H Food Smart Families.



ENCOURAGE AND PREPARE YOUTH FOR CAREERS IN SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING AND MATH

78% of youth are considering a career in the STEM field because of out-of-school programs.



IMPROVE ACCESS TO AFFORDABLE, NUTRITIOUS AND SAFE FOOD

Small scale gardeners grew and donated 4,000 pounds of produce to food pantries and low-income families.



INCREASE CONSUMER CONFIDENCE IN OUR FOOD SUPPLY

59% of Nebraska consumers use food.unl.edu resources to gain a better understanding of food production and safety contributing to 2.7 million page views annually.



PROTECT WATER QUALITY AND SOIL RESOURCES FOR AGRICULTURE, WILDLIFE, BUSINESSES AND COMMUNITIES

\$475,000 is the estimated producer value of sensor-based nitrogen application through Project Sense.



INTEGRATE AND DIVERSIFY CROP AND LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION SYSTEMS

\$17.4 million is the value the information learned by participants about planting and managing cover crops discussed at the 2016 Cover Crop Conference.



IMPROVE THE SHORT AND LONG-TERM ECONOMIC VIABILITY OF CROP AND LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION SYSTEMS

\$900,000 is the estimated impact of financial decisions participants made through the 2016 Cornhusker Economics Meetings.



APPLY EMERGING TECHNOLOGY TO IMPROVE LIVESTOCK AND CROP PRODUCTION

The Nebraska On-Farm Research program has an annual estimated impact of \$1.5 million.



ADOPT MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES TO DEAL WITH RESISTANT AND INVASIVE PESTS

97% of attendees took action in their landscapes and properties because of Emerald Ash Borer trainings.



USE WATER IN AGRICULTURAL, BUSINESS AND COMMUNITY SETTINGS EFFICIENTLY

89.3 million gallons of water can be saved through recommendations made by Partners in Pollution Program.



HELP AGRICULTURE PRODUCERS DEAL WITH CLIMATE VARIATION AND WEATHER

1,000 producers increased their knowledge on climate impacts through Extension programming.



PROTECT BENEFICIAL INSECT ECOSYSTEMS INCLUDING POLLINATORS

Over 4,000 Nebraskans attend Extension programs to improve practices that enhance ecosystems for pollinators and beneficial insects.



COMMUNITY VITALITY

COMMUNITY ENVIRONMENT

CROPS & WATER

BEEF SYSTEMS

FOOD, NUTRITION & HEALTH

4-H YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

THE LEARNING CHILD



<https://extension.unl.edu/impact/>

Issue Team Reports:

- Insect ecosystems
- Healthy lifestyles for children and youth
- Resistant and invasive pests
- Nebraska leaders
- College and career success
- Engaging underserved youth
- Climate variation
- Consumer confidence in food
- Children learning experiences
- Emerging technology for ag
- Ag production economics
- Livable communities
- STEM careers
- Water and soil protection
- Youth entrepreneurship and business opportunities
- Food access
- Diversified ag production



Healthy Lifestyles for Children and Youth

Nebraska Extension helps children and youth improve eating and physical activity patterns with direct education and healthier home, school, and community environments. Supporting healthy behaviors and environments helps reduce food and health care costs by helping prevent chronic health conditions.

Participants Impacted

Team members directly taught healthy lifestyles programming to 30,869 children and youth and 6,206 adults (i.e. teachers, caregivers, parents) for a total of 37,075 Nebraskans. More than 459,000 individuals were reached through indirect activities.

Engaging Learners

Team members implemented nutrition education and physical activity programs, as well as environmental strategies. Programs impacted individuals and families where they eat, live, work, learn, shop and play through group education classes, field days, summer/day camps, health fairs, workshops, and demonstrations. Learners received information via website, social media, newsletters and radio. To learn more about how our issue team engages learners, view our video: <https://go.unl.edu/hhhu>.



Photo credit: Marissa Cernjul

"I learned that eating healthy is a very good thing, and that making a healthy snack is really easy and yummy." -4th Grade Participant

Partners are Key to Leveraging Resources

To strengthen programs, collaborations with partners from the education, government, community, media, faith-based, public health, healthcare and public safety sectors are needed. More than \$1,000,000 were garnered by team members to support programming and included funds from USDA (including SNAP-Ed and EFNEP), Department of Health and Human Services, National 4-H Council, CHI Health, Children's Center for the Child & Community and other non-profit organizations. The following partners provided/assisted with space, human resources, recruitment, program implementation, planning, materials, and advertising:

 **98**
Schools
(Preschools, K-12,
Colleges and Universities)

 **35**
Organizations
(Healthcare, Public Health and
Indian Tribal Organizations)

 **21**
Facilities
(Child Care Centers, Daycare
Homes, and Faith-based)

 **16**
Agencies
(Federal, State, and Local
Government)



Photo credit: Cami Wells

Impact of Core Programs

Forty-one Extension professionals across 41 counties delivered nutrition and physical activity programming to 9,300 children and youth using *Kids in the Kitchen*, *Teen Cuisine*, *CATCH Kids Club* and *Choose Health: Food, Fun, and Fitness*. In-school and out-of-school programs were delivered at schools, community and recreation centers, faith-based centers, libraries, and youth organizations. Youth survey respondents (n=4,010) showed significant, positive intentions, knowledge and behavior changes in the following areas:

- More aware of daily fruit, vegetable and water consumption
- Eating meals with family and giving their family ideas for healthy meals and snacks more often
- Follow and make changes to a recipe to make something to eat, use measuring cups and spoons, and keep cooking areas clean for food safety



Examples of core programs included:

- Choose Health: Food, Fun, and Fitness
- CATCH Kids Club
- School Enrichment Kits
- Learn, Grow, Eat & Go

- Kids in the Kitchen
- 4-H Cooking 101-401
- Teen Cuisine

- School Wellness
- Go NAP SACC
- Eating Smart, Moving More

Nebraska Extension

Dave Varner
dave.varner@unl.edu



IN OUR GRIT, OUR GLORY™