





In Nebraska, 1 in 3 age eligible youth across all 93 counties are enrolled in 4-H. for a total enrollment reaching approximately 140,000 youth. This report will provide a glimpse into the growth and impact the Nebraska 4-H program has had on our youth participants. In 2011, a mixed methods study was conducted with approximately 1,200 youth from across Nebraska contributing their responses.

4-H in Nebraska

- 1 in 3 age-eligible youth in all 93 counties in Nebraska are 4-Her's.
- Nearly 70,000 youth participated in school enrichment experiences.
- Over 42,000 Nebraska youth were members of a 4-H club.
- Nearly 10,000 youth and adults participated in 4-H camping programs.
- 11,000 volunteers share their time and resources with Nebraska 4-H.

WE YEAR REVIEW

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THE NEBRASKA 4-H REVOLUTION

Youth Development Outcome Report

4-H in Nebraska

The mission of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Extension 4-H is to empower youth to reach their full potential working and learning in partnerships with caring adults. The Nebraska 4-H Strategic Plan, which was produced from a collaboration of feedback from our stakeholders, provided a strong and promising direction for 4-H in Nebraska. 2011 marks the 5th and final year of the current 4-H strategic plan. The outcome areas for the 2007-2011 Strategic Plan included Life Skill Development, Healthy Living, Career Development, and 4-H Science; in 2010, the focus strategically shifted to focus on 4-H Science and Career Development. In addition, 4-H has always been focused in supporting the post-secondary aspirations of young people.

2011 FINDINGS OVERVIEW

As a result of participating in their 4-H program or project in:

4-H Science

- 91% think a career in 4-H Science would be exciting.
- 80% understand how 4-H Science relates to their 4-H program or project.
- 81% I think 4-H Science will be important in their future job.
- 83% apply 4-H Science to their 4-H program or project.
- 82% get to do hands on 4-H Science related activities in their 4-H program or project.
- 73% could explain to others how they use 4-H Science in their 4-H program or project.
- 68% are exploring a career in a 4-H Science related field.
- 72% have or will talk to someone who works in a 4-H Science career they are interested in.

Career Development

- 87% know a college major related to their 4-H program or project.
- 79% might choose a college major related to their 4-H program or project.
- 88% can think of ways my
 4-H program or project could be a business.
- 97% are learning skills through 4-H that they could use in a future job.
- 93% know careers that are related to their 4-H program or project.
- 63% are exploring a career related to my 4-H program or project.
- 72% have talked to someone in a career related to their 4-H program or project.

Post-Secondary Education

- 82% of youth are or will attend a college or University in Nebraska.
- 33% of youth are or will attend the University of Nebraska–Lincoln.
- 57% of youth say 4-H staff or volunteers talked to them about their college decisions.
- 48% say their 4-H project area impacted their college decision.
- 74% of youth pursuing postsecondary education were enrolled in 4-H for 10-12 years
- 93% of youth pursuing postsecondary education were a member of a 4-H Club.
- 97% of youth pursuing postsecondary education participated at the county fair.

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Extension is a Division of the Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources at the University of Nebraska–Lincoln cooperating with the Counties and the United States Department of Agriculture.

2011 NEBRASKA YOUTH DEVELOPMENT OUTCOME REPORT

4-H Science

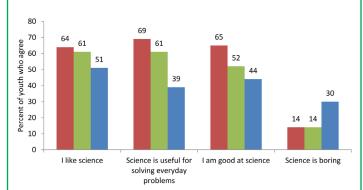


With an increased need for scientists across the nation, a primary interest of Nebraska 4-H is to provide opportunities for youth to pursue science, engineering, technology, and applied math. Nebraska 4-H is achieving this by providing hands on learning experiences that encourage the development of science skills

and abilities leading to an increase in science literacy amongst our 4-Her's. 4-H Science refers to programming that encompasses science, engineering, technology, or applied math skills and concepts.

Nebraska 4-H youth responded positively in regards to their 4-H Science interest over the past five years, with youth respondents thinking a career in science, engineering, technology, or applied math would be exciting; 50% in 2007 to 91% in 2011. Also promising is the percentage of youth who have or will talk to someone who works in the science, engineering, technology, and applied math career they are interested in; 62% in 2007 to 72% in 2011. When compared to a national sample of 4-H youth and all youth, youth in Nebraska report more positive attitudes related to science.

Nebraska 4-H, National 4-H, and NAEP Eighth-Grade Attitudes Toward Science



■ 2011 Nebraska 4-H (n=75) ■ 2010 National 4-H (n=51) ■ 2005 NAEP sample (n=22,700)*

Exhibit reads: Sixty-four percent of eighth-grade Nebraska 4-H participants agreed that they like science, compared to 61 percent of National 4-H youth and 51 percent of 2005 NAEP sample eighth-graders.

Note: Nebraska 4-H youth 12-19 years of age and National youth 13-14 years of age were classified as eigth-graders for this analysis.

* The National Assessment of Education Progress (NAEP) Science assessment is administered nationally to represent 8th grade students to measure their interests in science.

Career Development

Preparing Nebraska's youth to pursue meaningful career choices continues to be a top priority of Nebraska 4-H. The 2007-2011 Nebraska 4-H Strategic Plan sought to teach our youth the value of opportunity and connectivity, and to develop the skills necessary for acting on those opportunities. Through various 4-H programs, projects, and activities, youth were able to discover and pursue their interests as they relate to future career possibilities.

Over the last five years, the efforts of Nebraska 4-H have been evidenced by the significant increase in percentage of youth respondents who know a college major related to their 4-H program or project, with an increase from 35% in 2009 to 87% in 2011. This strong increase is a result of Nebraska 4-H staff and volunteers pro-

viding opportunities for youth to talk with a person in a career related to their 4-H program or project (58% in 2010 to 72% in 2011). In addition, there has been an increase in the percentage of youth who recognize they are learning skills through 4-H that they could use in a future job; 92% in 2008 to 97% in 2011.



These are all indicators that in the future, the youth of Nebraska 4-H will be better prepared to achieve economic stability and be successful contributors to their communities.

Post-Secondary Education



The projects offered through 4-H often serve as a catalyst in assisting youth discover and make decisions about their post-secondary education. Providing Nebraska youth opportunities to develop the knowledge and skills required to adequately pursue post-secondary education choices has and will continue to be a

top priority of the organization. Annually 4-H seeks to document the post-secondary plans of graduating youth. Consistently, more

than 95% report plans to pursue higher education; approximately one-third choosing UNL.

"4-H helped me learn that I love working with children and that I am competent when speaking in front of groups. I decided to mold these two areas into my plans for the future, as I study elementary education."

"4-H helped me discover a love of photography and helped me decide that I want my career to be in the photography field. I am now attending college pursuing a degree in Business Management with a minor in Photography with the hopes of opening my own studio."