Nebraska 4-H Impact Report

Inspiring Young Nebraskans to Reach their Full Potential

The mission of Nebraska 4-H is to empower youth to reach their full potential working and learning in partnerships with caring adults.

Nebraska 4-H strives to help young people achieve their greatest potential by introducing high-quality youth development experiences into the lives of Nebraska youth and families. Engagement in 4-H results in youth who are making positive decisions related to their health and their future goals. Further, they are advocates and leaders determined to leave a lasting impact on Nebraska communities.

By taking part in Nebraska 4-H, youth are preparing for a successful future by focusing on 4-H Science, Agricultural Literacy, Career Development and College Readiness, Community Engagement, and Healthy Living. Impact statements below represent youth responses collected at many county, district, and state programs. Approximately 3,000 responses were collected.

> Inspiring Young Scientists

Nebraska 4-H is developing Science interests, skills and abilities in the areas of agriculture, energy, environmental stewardship and technology. Signature program efforts included Outdoor Skills in partnership with Nebraska Game and Parks, GEAR-Tech 21 Robotics, Animals Inside and Out, Embryology, Corral your Future, Animal Science Day Camps and Companion Animal programs. Programs were delivered to more than 3,700 young people. An additional 3,400 youth were reached through participation in the Nebraska State Fair Largest Classroom.

**87%** of youth in the GEAR-Tech 21 program are excited to learn more about science and **2 in 3 youth** are interested in a career in science.

**81%** of youth in Animals Inside and Out can successfully identify multiple animal by-products and **87%** reported an increased interest in Animal Science.

**79%** of youth in the Outdoor Skills program agree that science is important in solving everyday problems and **84%** learned problem solving skills they can use in school.

Visit [4h.unl.edu](http://4h.unl.edu) for more information.
Nebraska 4-H is helping youth focus on their future success and preparing youth to make informed decisions about their college and career path. Signature program efforts included Connecting the Dots, Big Red Summer Academic Camps, Building Your Futures, Leap into Careers and other college readiness programming delivered to more than 3,500 young people.

**Inspiring College and Career Readiness**

98% of youth participating in Connecting the Dots understand their opportunities for post-secondary education in Nebraska; a 24% increase from before the program. 62% reported an interest in attending the University of Nebraska-Lincoln in the future. 75% plan to live and work in Nebraska after college.

Inspiring Agricultural Literacy

Nebraska 4-H ensures that youth have knowledge and an appreciation of Nebraska’s largest industry. Signature program efforts included the Ag-Citing Science school enrichment program delivered to nearly 700 youth and 15 Agricultural Literacy Festivals which reach more than 5,500 young people.

80% of youth where able to correctly identify the source for milk, vegetables, proteins and grains. 72% of youth knew agriculture was the largest industry in Nebraska. 78% could identify someone they know who has a career in agriculture.

Inspiring Community Engagement

Nebraska 4-H is fostering youth’s commitment and contribution to their communities. Signature program efforts included 7 Habits of Highly Effective Teens, We the People and Focus on Citizenship which reached approximately 250 young people.

78% of youth in the 7 Habits of Highly Effective teams have developed a personal mission statement and goals; an increase of 35% from before the program. 98% of youth in community engaged programs report that they value differences in others. 78% report having an opportunity though 4-H to contribute to their community.

Inspiring Healthier Living

Nebraska 4-H helps youth understand the impact of personal decisions. Signature program efforts included 4-H Healthy U, the Healthy Living Skill-a-thon and a new 4-H Foods Contest at the Nebraska State Fair. These programs reached approximately 250 young people. Additionally, hands-on activities in the areas of nutrition, physical activity, hand washing, food preservation, food preparation and decision making were delivered to 11,500 youth.

90% know the value of a healthy, balanced diet. 89% reported plans to encourage their families to eat meals together. 93% learned how to deal with stress in positive ways.

Inspiring the Next Generation

Nebraska 4-H is committed to preparing youth to pursue a post-secondary education. Annually, former 4-Hers who participated through their high-school career are surveyed regarding their post-secondary plans after their first semester in college. Results for 2013 graduates are reported here.

96% are pursuing post-secondary education. 32% are attending the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. 93% have identified a major and 64% report that their selection was influenced by their 4-H project participation.