

4-H GROWS HERE

Empowering Youth with the Skills to Lead for a Lifetime

In Nebraska, 4-H reaches 1 in 2 age-eligible youth in 77% of counties with the support of over 12,000 volunteers. Nebraska 4-H strives to enable all youth to develop strong personal mindsets and the social skills necessary for successful futures. Nebraska 4-H reaches youth through clubs, afterschool programming, school enrichment programming, special interest programs, and camps.

Growing True Leaders

In 2019, Nebraska participated in the first **National Call for Data**. The purpose was to assess outcomes experienced by a nationwide sample of youth ages 5-19. Seven hundred youth from Nebraska contributed to the following findings that showcase a strong personal mindset and strong social skills of youth engaged in 4-H.

- 95% are willing to work hard on something difficult.
- 86% stop to think about their choices before making a decision.
- 87% think about how their choices affect others.
- 92% look for ways to involve all group members.
- 91% get along with others who are different from themselves.
- 82% are comfortable being a leader.

Reaching New and Underserved Youth

Nebraska 4-H works to ensure that 4-H is accessible to all Nebraska youth. **Teens as Teachers** is a program that employs teens to deliver programming to new and underserved youth in their communities.

In 2019, 17 teen teachers in 17 counties reached more than 1,600 youth. After programming, 91% of youth and teens reported they will keep trying until they reach their goal and 88% of teen teachers felt confident in their leadership ability.



Preparing Youth to Make Decisions Today and for Their Future

4-H prepares youth to make well-informed decisions through Career Development and Healthy Living programming.

 4-H and Food, Nutrition, and Health Extension professionals served 9,300 youth in 41 counties with **healthy living programs**. Respondents showed significant, positive intentions, knowledge, and behavior changes in the following areas:

- More aware of daily fruit, vegetable, and water consumption, daily activity, and screen time.
- Eating less fast food and giving their family ideas for healthy meals and snacks more often.
- Follow and make changes to a recipe, use knives safely, and keep cooking areas clean for food safety.

 **Connecting the Dots**, an interactive career exploration simulation program, engaged over 3,500 - 9th and 10th grade students in learning about careers of interest as well as how to “connect the dots” from 9th grade, through post-secondary, to the workplace.

As a result of the Connecting the Dots program:

- 90% say this program has helped them explore future career options.
- 88% of participants have a better idea of what they might do after high school.



Next Chapter, a college readiness program and a University of Nebraska-Lincoln pre-admittance program, is offered to 8th grade students enrolled in 4-H. Throughout high school, pre-admitted students engage in events, activities, and curriculum during which they will learn how to successfully transition from high school to college. In two years, Next Chapter at Nebraska has served over 2,000 youth statewide.

Engaging Youth in STEM and Agricultural Literacy

Through 4-H programming, youth are engaged in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) and Agricultural Literacy efforts that will enable them to lead these industries in the future.



Partnerships are critical in reaching Nebraska youth. Nebraska Extension developed and strengthened partnerships with the following organizations to help plan and deliver programs:

- 21st Century Learning Centers.
- Local Schools.
- Local Libraries.
- Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture.
- Nebraska Department of Education.
- Nebraska Educational Service Units.
- Nebraska Library Commission.



More than 4,500 youth were engaged in **STEM programming** topics such as aerospace engineering, computer coding, food science, animal science, and agronomy. Over 400 students participated in a virtual field trip series aimed at connecting students with unique learning opportunities which brought science alive in the classroom. As a result:

- 90% of students reported learning something new about science or engineering.
- 70% stated they would like to have a job that uses engineering.
- 58% shared they would like to have a job that uses science.



New in 2019, the **National Clearinghouse Data** was accessed for high school graduates in 2017 and 2018 who are Nebraska 4-H alumni. Over 80% have enrolled in post-secondary education with nearly 60% declaring majors in STEM!



Empowering Youth Leadership and Entrepreneurship

Nebraska 4-H empowers youths' unique Leadership and Entrepreneurial spirits that will ensure they make a lasting and positive contribution to their communities.



More than 170 mentors, volunteers, and businesses supported Youth Entrepreneurship and Business Opportunity (YEBO) activities.

Nearly 1,700 youth participated in the entrepreneurship curriculum. Seven hundred and nine youth participated in INVENTURE Day and 265 youth participated in Tinker. Explore. Create. (TEC) Box.

- During **INVENTURE Day**, students familiarize themselves with local businesses and entrepreneurial careers. Youth form teams to develop a unique business around a product. Ninety-seven percent of participants learned the process of creating a business. Seventy-five percent of participants are thinking about staying in their community to start a business.
- **TEC Box** is an experiential learning and maker movement activity that actively engages learners by encouraging them to think of themselves, work hard, and learn with hands-on, minds-on methods. Eighty percent of participants believe they can be an entrepreneur. Ninety-two percent of the participants were encouraged to help others.



Over 830 youth improved leadership skills and confidence by engaging in **leadership development programs** including:

- Nebraska Human Resource Institute Leadership Mentoring – College student leaders meet weekly with K-12 aged mentees to expand their leadership development.
- Priceless Preteen – A summer leadership development program for 6th grade students.
- Leadership Summit: Hike Your Leadership Trail – A nationally-awarded leadership field day experience for middle school youth. Through this program, 5th and 6th grade students have increased their capacity through the discovery of their leadership temperament style.

Other impacts achieved include:

- 32% of youth participants agree that they can create positive change in their communities.
- 41% of youth believe young people have an important leadership role in their community.



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