



2023 Impact Summary

Engaging with Nebraskans wherever they are, connecting them with the resources, research and innovation of the University of Nebraska.



Over the past four years, Nebraska Extension had significant progress in developing **soybean gall midge** management tactics and conveying this to farmers. Participants at a 2023 Regional Field Day reported the research-based information shared has provided an **educational value of \$4.6 million. Over 570 clients across 8 Midwestern states and 2 Canadian provinces** receive automated alerts to initiate gall midge monitoring and control when the insects emerge each spring.

Additionally, the soybeangallmidge.org website has disseminated information to over **9,100 unique visitors from 49 U.S. states and 60 countries**. UNL's ability to quickly address client needs, document impacts, and establish collaborations has positioned its researchers as leaders in securing federal and state research grants on this issue.

In 2018, soybean farmers and researchers discovered a **new invasive pest species**, the soybean **gall midge, attacking soybean crops across four Midwestern states**. Nebraska Extension led efforts to identify the new species and coordinate collaborative research to address this emerging threat. Due to limited information about the gall midge in 2019-2020, Nebraska extension faculty organized round table discussions with soybean farmers and **industry representatives from multiple states to collect field observations and identify shared research priorities**. These discussions informed a communication framework to rapidly disseminate information, guided future research directions, established on-farm research collaborations, and **created a data-sharing network on the gall midge**.

The Nebraska Entrepreneurial Communities, or **"eCommunities,"** program initiated in 2021 and funded by the U.S. Economic Development Administration, delivers crucial development support to **business owners across 20 communities in 12 Nebraska counties**. Beyond adding essential jobs post-pandemic, engaged businesses empower owners and local economic leaders, enhancing their capacity to explore new markets for **long-term financial stability**.

Key achievements include:

- **Revenues of 129 eCommunities** supported businesses increased by **\$2,447,000** in the last three years.
- **Revenues of 33 eCommunities** supported businesses rose by **\$638,000 from April to September 2023**.
- These businesses have collectively **added 69 full-time and 59 part-time employees** since 2021, with **23 full-time and 13 part-time hires from April to September 2023**.





Strengthen Nebraska Agriculture & Food Systems By connecting with Nebraska Extension, Nebraska amplifies its strengths in agriculture, food production, and natural resources stewardship in ways that are environmentally and economically sustainable—ensuring that all Nebraskans have access to safe and healthy food, abundant water, and the benefits of Nebraska’s outdoor spaces

Inspire Nebraskans & Their Communities By connecting with Nebraska Extension, Nebraska has a robust, diverse population of well-prepared, innovative and productive people—beginning with Nebraska youth—living in thriving, vibrant communities that are contributing to the sustained success and growth of the entire state.

Enhance the Health & Wellbeing of All Nebraskans By connecting with Nebraska Extension, Nebraskans are healthier in every respect—physically, mentally, and economically—leading to an even better quality of life greater prosperity, and a promising future for all.



\$25M

Was awarded from the U.S. Department of Agriculture for the creation of the **Heartland Regional Foods Business Center**. It will serve Nebraska, Missouri, Kansas, Oklahoma and Iowa.



4,400+

Youth participated in “Connecting the Dots” **College and Career Success program** in 85 schools statewide.

\$168M

Was the total reported value of information to 8,000 clients of insurance agents attending **Nebraska Extension Crop Insurance Programming**, with the average value being \$21,000.



9,027

Early Childhood professionals enhanced their skills and reached **144,605 children** with high quality programming through Nebraska Extension; this work brought in **\$3 million** of additional funding.



\$500,000

Was gained by participants in the beef industry as a result of participating in **Nebraska Extension’s Ranch Practicum**.



73,700+

Nebraskans participated in direct health education or had **improved food and physical activity environments** through Extension programming.

8.32M

Acres farmed/managed by participants who attended **Nebraska On-Farm Research Network (NOFRN) Results Update Meetings**.



30,000

Volunteer hours were completed by Extension Master Gardener Volunteers, valued at **\$885,000**. **56,000** pounds of produce was grown and donated, valued at **\$111,400**.



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