

Community Environment



2021 Impact At-A-Glance

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Nebraska Extension's Nation Nourishment Food Sovereignty Program provides education to develop gardening skills for indigenous people, improve access to food, and foster gardening as a cottage industry.

Eight Nebraska Extension Educators, along with tribal members and the Center for Rural Affairs have provided education on a range of topics including seed starting, growing cool and warm season vegetables, integrated pest management, cottage food law, preservation of traditional food, foraging, and safe food handling practices. The program has fostered the development of the UNL East Campus Indigenous Youth Community Garden project in Lincoln and the establishment of a 13-member Prosperity Council in Thurston County to address the educational needs of tribal members.

"The Pow Wow [farmers market] in Macy was a success for me and my crew. We canned jam and salsa last week and sold over 40 jars this weekend."

- Crystal, an UmoNhoN Nation tribal member

15 indigenous people from the UmoNhoN and Santee nations participated in 35 classes in 2021.

100% of program participants grew their own food.

4 indigenous beginning farmers gained employment with the Center for Rural Affairs.

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Extension professionals work shoulder-to-shoulder with Nebraskans to sustainably manage community green spaces, protect natural resources, improve their landscapes and grow safe, nutritious food. Through Extension experts and resources, Nebraskans have what they need to make well-informed decisions related to their businesses, their health, their families and their hometowns. Nebraska Extension is an integral partner in helping Nebraska live up to its well-earned reputation as “The Good Life.”

156 Certified Pollinator Habitats in 22 counties statewide. 77% have increased plant abundance and diversity in their gardens.

Community Environment 2021 Highlights

- Extension faculty collaborated with 26 Master Gardeners from six counties for the Water Dogs project. Water irrigation audits, soil moisture meters & soil tests helped determine when to water.
- 1520 packets of Hakuri Turnip seeds were distributed to youth in 87 of 93 counties as a part of the Nebraska 4-H Special Garden Project.
- Nebraska Extension Master Gardener Volunteers grew and donated over 70,000 pounds of produce in 2021.
- The GROBigRed Virtual Learning series engaged 1,742 learners from Nebraska and across the country in engaging learning around vegetable gardening, houseplants, pollinators, pests, and more.



Backyard Farmer

Backyard Farmer is dedicated to helping find solutions to lawn & garden questions. Every year from spring to fall, the panel of experts deals with topics from insects, turf and weeds, rots and spots, landscapes, vegetables, and critters, as well as landscape design & general horticulture topics.



130,000 people per week tune into *Backyard Farmer* each season.