

Dawson County

2021 Impact At-A-Glance



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Participants improved food-handling practices reducing the risk of foodborne illness outbreaks and associated health care costs by understanding thermometers, safe temperatures, and cooling methods.

Ensuring a safe food supply is important in rural areas with limited access to affordable training. Nebraska Extension's ServSafe Food Handler course reached 32 multicultural Food Service Workers at Lexington Public Schools (LPS), where 4,325 meals are served daily. Participants planned to "prevent cross-contamination when prepping food" and "practice FIFO (first-in, first-out)" after this training. Maria Vargas, LPS Food Service Director, said her "workers now see the importance of changing gloves more often, have increased sanitizing, and are now consistent with labeling."

Programs At-A-Glance

- **Weed ID:** 12 4-H youth participated in Weeds & Grass ID Team from 2016-2021. Youth had a 95% increase in knowledge about weed ID earning 26 individual and nine team State Fair awards.
- **Healthy Habits:** 178 Dawson County 3rd-12th graders completed the Healthy Habits requirement curriculum of food safety and nutrition labels with emphasis on fat and sugar content.

21 On-Farm Research studies completed with growers and crop consultants (11 in Dawson County).

13 Dawson County youth installed a pollinator garden cooperating with the NE Game & Parks Commission.

19 Dawson County 4-H youth participated in the State Make It With Wool Contest.