Nebraska Extension is engaging stakeholders, volunteers, and the participants to create a coordinated food system. In Dakota County food access is a community driven effort.

A team of volunteers raised over $40,000 for emergency food response, engaged 23 community stakeholders, and collaborated with 17 agencies to provide food boxes for 1,449 families, which fed over 5,000 people. Eleven-year-old Logan, who participated in a rock painting fundraiser, made an impact with his contribution. On his rock he painted “full tummy happy heart.” He said, “I know what it’s like to go to bed hungry and to have my tummy hurt because I have no food. I want to make sure no other kids ever have their tummy hurt because they had to go without food.”

Programs At-A-Glance

- Nebraska Extension co-coordinated 30 volunteers over 2 years at the community orchard. 1500 pounds of apples were given away to 350 youth & adult participants. Over 1000 new plants were added in 2020.
- Over 20 hours of virtual learning and interactive activities were locally developed to engage youth at home and in the classroom with programming utilized across Nebraska.

17,333 Pounds of produce grown by and for local residents through Voices for Food project.

255 South Sioux City afterschool youth reached with educational, innovative & engaging STEAM programming

95% Of the 200 participants in 16 virtual gardening classes learned new practices & gained new skills.