The “Growing Together Nebraska Garden” project in Grand Island donated over 6,500 pounds of produce to local food pantries this year, serving 921 individuals in Hall County.

Increasing food security couldn’t be more important during the COVID-19 pandemic. This local SNAP-Ed funded donation garden, with the help of Extension Master Gardeners, local organizations and volunteers, has been able to reach many individuals with limited resources. Third City Community Clinic has seen an increase in people stopping by for food during the pandemic. “We’ve seen a lot of people coming to us right now because a lot of people aren’t working yet,” said Director Kim Thompson. With the donated produce, “they don’t have to decide between paying for bills and paying for food.”

Programs At-A-Glance

- **4-H Spark, Link & Learn:** 98% of youth program participants learned a new skill through this innovative, virtual learning experience.
- **ServSafe Training:** 75 foodservice professionals were trained with the latest science-based information on food safety and best practices.

845 “Find Your Spark to Start” books delivered to Hall County 4th graders.

60 new businesses started with the support of the Extension Community Vitality Initiative.

96% of pesticide applicator trainees will take appropriate steps to prepare for pesticide spills.