Denise Cada, the Strategic Director of the Washington County Food Pantry, has seen an increased need in the county over the last two years due to the flood in 2019 and currently a worldwide pandemic.

The Washington County Extension office joined statewide efforts as part of Grow Together Nebraska this year. Growing Together Nebraska is a multi-state SNAP-Ed project. Community donation gardens located across the state, aim to connect local Extension staff, Master Gardeners, and local community organizations with the goal of increasing access to fresh fruits and vegetables for families experiencing food insecurity in Nebraska. Between June and October, 288 pounds of fresh produce was donated to the Washington County Food Pantry reaching 172 families.

- **4-H GROWS HERE**: 27% of age eligible youth were reached by clubs, special interest, school enrichment, and summer workshops and were empowered to reach their full potential.
- **ASPIRING FARMERS**: is a six-week training giving participants a comprehensive understanding of how to start their farm business. Twenty-five participants from four states took part.

**Programs At-A-Glance**

- 288 pounds of fresh produce were donated to the Washington County Food Pantry
- 25 participants from 4 states learned how to start their farm business from Aspiring Farmers program
- 414 students learned more about emotions, food & nutrition, handwashing, healthy habits and careers.