DOUGLAS AND SARPY COUNTIES

Engaging Diverse Audiences in Learning

Urban Educator John Porter worked to teach exchange students from Rwanda various agricultural skills. The horticulture/greenhouse course focused on building a hydroponic system from basic building materials, planting and irrigating vegetable crops, tree planting and maintenance, produce food safety, and propagation of tropical plants commonly used in Rwandan gardens. He also engages the Omaha refugee population in the New American Urban Farmer program. Our nutrition education and food safety programs have improved food access and education to thousands of individuals in underserved communities through the Double Up Food Bucks, the Cultivadoras program, and ServSafe food handlers training in Spanish. Increased use of social media and media by our extension teams has increase our reach to people of all ages and backgrounds like never before.

16,600  Youth Learning Science, Skills, and Healthy Habits

4-H in Douglas-Sarpy reached 16,278 youth though hands-on science based activities in 2019. Additionally, our nutrition education program taught healthy habits and nutrition to 16,600 youth. Over 250 youth were introduced to Nano Science and Computer Science through the Imagine Science Program this summer, a collaborative program spearheaded by Douglas-Sarpy 4-H. 82 percent of youth involved in SNAP-Ed nutrition education programs reported gaining knowledge and skills to make healthier choices. For example, there was a 17% increase of students who said they think about the number of sugary drinks they consume in a day.

"At first I thought 4-H was for people with animals. Now I realize 4-H is exploring science and working as a team. 4-H has truly helped me in more ways than I can count.” – 4-H participant

Timely Responses to Needs in the Community

Nebraska Extension served as a trusted source for flood-related information, offering locally-based experts ready to help our community in need. Douglas-Sarpy experts created educational resources that focused on food safety and food security issues while helping with appropriate flood specific sanitation practices. Our community environment team engaged in teaching homeowners how to address short-term issues such as food safety in vegetable gardens and damage to landscapes, as well as long-term and economic issues such as damaged trees and fields. In addition, our teams increased access to healthy foods by leading the production of 8,200 pounds of produce from the Master Gardener’s HOPE garden that was donated to local food banks in 2019. Participants in programs geared to improve nutrition for SNAP benefit recipients indicated a 90% improvement in their diets thanks to extension programs.