

N EXTENSION

2024 Impact Summary

Engaging with
Nebraskans
wherever they
are, connecting
them with the
resources, research
and innovation of
the University of
Nebraska.



Drones in Agriculture Revolutionize Farm Management

Nebraska Extension has emerged as a leader in agricultural drone education, launching initiatives like the Drones in Ag Conferences, Nebraska Spray Drone Conferences, drone workshops and presentations, and Part 107 Remote Pilot Exam Prep courses.

These events, held in 2023 and 2024, provided **training to over 300 growers and industry professionals from nine states**. Extension educators collaborated with Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), Nebraska Agriculture Technology Association, Extension Foundation, and Nebraska ag businesses to teach drone regulations and applications, such as precision spraying and crop monitoring. These events created over 20 continuing education units (CEUs) for certified crop advisors and agronomists to meet their annual professional development requirements.

These drone events help to promote **workforce development, STEM education, and entrepreneurship** in Nebraska. One agricultural business professional, who attended the Part 107 Remote Pilot Exam Prep Course and passed the Aeronautical Knowledge Exam to receive their drone license, shared that by being able to fly a drone as a service to customers, their business sales increased by 15%.

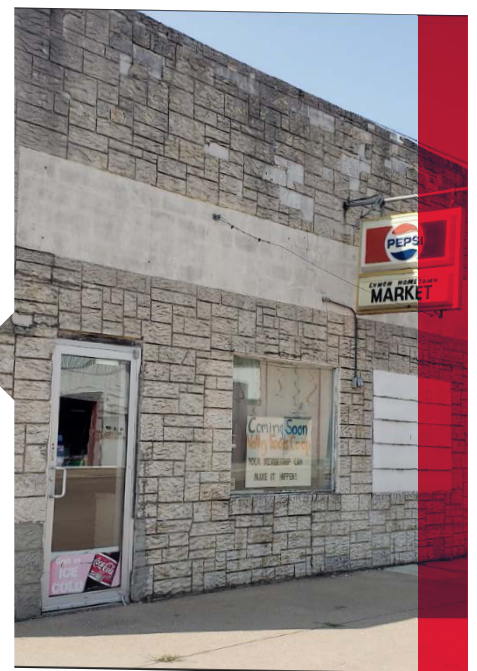
Lynch Cooperative Reaches \$1 Million Milestone

In just 33 months, Valley Foods Cooperative in Lynch, Nebraska, achieved \$1 million in sales, revitalizing this small town of fewer than 200 residents. Opened in February 2022, the co-op restored access to food in a community that had faced years as a food desert. With guidance from the Nebraska Cooperative Development Center and Rural Prosperity Nebraska, and powered by countless volunteer hours, the co-op came to life through a capitalization campaign, grant writing, and community-driven efforts. It has since become a hub for local vendors, a gathering place, and an essential resource for elderly, low-income, and young families.

This achievement demonstrates the power of collective action and community spirit. Valley Foods not only meets local needs but keeps money circulating within Lynch, fostering pride and proving that small towns can overcome challenges to thrive.

Why It Matters?

- Keeps business and money in Lynch.
- Meets the needs of elderly residents, low-income families, and young households.
- Acts as a social gathering place that fosters community connection.
- Provides an outlet for cottage and local food vendors.



Across 8 program areas and 93 counties, Nebraska Extension continues to build on sound accomplishments and innovate for the future.

From youth, to communities, to agriculture and food, Nebraska Extension looks forward; facing the grand challenges and improving the lives of Nebraskans.

The impacts here give a glimpse into the accomplishments of 2024 that have made a difference for lives of Nebraskans. To learn more, visit: extension.unl.edu/



83,000

youth engaged in 4-H educational opportunities through school enrichment.



22

states and 9 countries engaged with The Good Life in Early Life Podcast. The podcast also earned the 1st Place National Winner in Communications Radio or Podcast award from the National Extension Association of Family and Consumer Sciences.

1,785

users utilized the Ag Budget Calculator Program (ABC) to create 3,854 budgets, enhancing profitability in agriculture.



90,000+

Nebraskans benefited from improved food and physical activity environments through health programming.



77,000

downloads of 86 new episodes of the BeefWatch Podcast reached listeners in 65 countries in 2024.



\$13.6 M

in increased or saved revenue for businesses and entrepreneurs through eCommunities business coaching.

4,219

members enrolled in the Great Plains Master Beekeeping program, with 80% reporting personal benefits.



98%

of participants reported improvement in their understanding of soil and nutrient management practices after attending Annual Soils School.

