

# 4-H Youth Development

## 2024 Impact At-A-Glance



**Nebraska 4-H provides youth with positive youth development opportunities that prepare them to become healthy, capable, and ready to engage in school, work, and life.**

4-H Youth Development creates opportunities for young people to both learn and give back to their communities. Ivan's journey embodies the transformative power of 4-H. Born into poverty in Iraq, Ivan began working at age seven to support his family. After immigrating to the U.S. in 2016, he faced challenges like language barriers and cultural adaptation, but used these experiences to fuel his drive for change. Through a cross-disciplinary partnership between 4-H and Food Nutrition and Health, Ivan's passion for leadership and health took form in the Fields of Opportunity project. He leveraged the Lead to Change grant to establish free soccer programs for Yazidi youth in Nebraska, fostering teamwork, resilience, and healthy habits. Now serving 30+ youth annually, his program promotes belonging and empowers young leaders, paving the way for a brighter future.

**"Similar to many of these kids, I grew up in one of the poorest places in Iraq. Growing up, my family did not have a car or money to afford food or the most basic necessities. I worked in grocery stores at the age of 7 and was paid in food. Growing up in these situations taught me a lot, but the one thing that stuck to me most was that change was possible..."**  
-- Ivan Haskans, National 4-H Lead to Change Grant recipient in Nebraska.

# 127,786

**Youth served statewide by Nebraska 4-H through clubs, school enrichment, afterschool programs, special interest groups, and virtual delivery.**

# 6,843

**Volunteers served the Nebraska 4-H program across all 93 counties providing youth an opportunity to learn from a caring adult.**

# 83,000

**Young people statewide engaged in 4-H educational opportunities through school enrichment program delivery.**

**STRENGTHEN NEBRASKA AGRICULTURE  
& FOOD SYSTEMS**

**INSPIRE NEBRASKANS & THEIR  
COMMUNITIES**

**ENHANCE THE HEALTH & WELLBEING OF  
ALL NEBRASKANS**

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## Inspire Nebraskans & Their Communities

One in three age-eligible young Nebraskans take part in 4-H programs offered by Nebraska Extension. Through 4-H, youth gain experiences that help them become creative thinkers, skilled employees, and good citizens. Nebraska 4-H partners with schools, after-school programs, and youth organizations to provide University resources and research-based curriculum and educational content. As a result, young Nebraskans are inspired to pursue careers in science, technology, engineering, and math; underserved populations have more opportunities to create and contribute; more kids discover their true passions and talents; and the next generation of Nebraskans is ready to enhance our workforce and become responsible community leaders.

- 251 4-H Robotics volunteers spent over 400 hours engaging 3,300 4-H youth in robotics programs.
- 6,870 youth participated in Ag Literacy Festivals; 83% of students increased interest in agriculture, with 70% expressing interest in ag-related careers.
- 543 youth completed the Building Better Babysitters training. 82% said they know how to respond in an emergency.
- 27 Virtual STEM Field Trips were offered in 2024.
- 1,130+ young people learned about the environment and conservation through Project WET, WILD and Learning Tree programs.

**80**

Schools statewide participated in Connecting the Dots programs helping 2,200+ youth become college and career ready. 93% said the program helped them identify one or more careers that might interest them.



"I LOVE all the aspects of STEM that we can incorporate while hatching the eggs. It is also so important to teach responsibility. It is a core memory for them, and I feel so lucky that this program is available and that it is something that the kids will always remember."  
-Classroom teacher engaged with 4-H Embryology.



**17,534**

Youth engaged 4-H Embryology programs in 2024 through 16 partnerships statewide. Embryology teaches young people about life cycles and agriculture.