

NORTH PANHANDLE COUNTIES

North Panhandle Disaster Relief



A March blizzard and frozen soils triggered one of the most challenging years in decades. Widespread flooding in the northern panhandle damaged nearly all roads and impacted our ag-based economy. Nebraska Extension staff provided these efforts toward disaster relief: establishing and coordinating the disaster relief site in Chadron disseminating \$47,000 worth of livestock feed and fencing supplies; organizing and chairing a fund to collect and distribute disaster donations; creating a local disaster website and disseminating relevant information via news outlets; invited all regional first responders and elected officials to a series of discussions coordinating relief efforts leading to FEMA mitigation funding in 3 counties.

4-H Healthy Habits/CATCH the Fun!

This program is funded by the National 4-H Program and the Walmart Foundation to teach youth about fitness & food. Nebraska Extension staff in the north panhandle delivered this program to 128 youth from Gordon, Hay Springs, Crawford, Chadron Intermediate and Middle schools. Four 4-H teen ambassadors were trained and each helped teach six sessions on physical activity, nutrition, and food preparation. One teen ambassador, participated last year in CATCH the Fun! and was able to move into the role of 4-H Teen Ambassador teaching the physical activities, food preparation, and some nutrition concepts such as, nutrition labels. Extension staff collaborated with 5 after-school programs to provide 36 total sessions.

"Mrs. G, You know how you taught us to hold the chef's knife? The other night I was helping my dad cook, and he showed me another way to hold the knife. I did and I almost cut my finger off! I went back to holding it the way you taught us."
– Ryan, Third Grader

STEM Education Priority for North Panhandle Youth



School enrichment programs were incorporated into preschools, and K-5th grade. For young students, the Life Cycle of a Butterfly allowed youth to understand the life cycle of butterflies, how to tell the difference between a moth and butterfly, and how butterflies eat. 4th and 5th graders learned what a circuit is, how to implement a button, the difference between a parallel and series circuit, and how to create their very own circuit through the Wearable Technology curriculum. Initially, most students did not know anything about circuits. Because of the program, the youth felt comfortable answering questions about circuits on their standardized tests. 264 were fascinated to youth learned about animal systems and care through Animals Inside & Out workshop for 3-5th grade students.

"I liked learning about the heart, are you going to teach us about hearts again next year?" – Animals Inside & Out Participant

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