

SCOTTS BLUFF COUNTY

Irrigation Tunnel Collapse and Canal Breach



On July 17, 2019, the Goshen/Gering-Fort Laramie Irrigation canal collapsed, causing a major breach of the canal bank. The loss of irrigation water affected over 107,000 acres. Nebraska and Wyoming Extension hosted two meetings for several hundred stakeholders to provide them with the most current information, to make better decisions about their crops, mental-health resources, information about fund-raisers, and links to other websites. Extension personnel used videos, photos, news media interviews, and time-lapse photography to illustrate the damage, repair efforts, and condition of the crops. CropWatch published content provided by Extension, of the 17 articles and stories, one garnered more than 4,000 page views and another more than 2,200.

“If there’s one group that has been able to provide those affected with helpful information over the past few weeks, it has been Nebraska Extension.”

– State Senator John Stinner commented in the Scottsbluff Star-Herald

Scotts Bluff County Extension Partnership with Lied Scottsbluff

One hundred seventy-five new audience patrons, including youth and adults, were trained on using the Makerspace equipment and increasing their Maker Mindset by Nebraska Extension Staff. The training included instruction using the 3D printer, laser cutter, CNC router, vinyl cutter, robotics, and heat press through in-depth training. Approximately 300 other new audiences were introduced to Nebraska Extension, 4-H, and the Makerspace through hands-on tours. Participants increased their Maker Mindset by building creative confidence, using design thinking, and became more engaged in their learning process. This partnership has evolved to other programs such as the Library STEM youth club, robotics, and an entrepreneurship class held at the library.



4-H, Extension, and Geil Elementary STEM Club



4-H Extension collaborated with Geil Elementary 4th grade teachers to develop a Science Technology Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) Club raising \$1,500 for the program. The club is currently reaching 20 4th graders and meets 16 times for a total of 24 hours of dosage covering a new STEM topic each month. Some of the topics include robotics, Nano, engineering, rocketry, hydroponics, and GMO’s. The goal of the club is to get students excited about careers in STEM through hands-on experiments.

“This club extends classroom learning and introduces topics not covered in our curriculum. Nathan challenges our students to think on a higher level. We look forward to working with Nathan next semester as he challenges our 5th graders.”

– Lisa Gass, fourth-grade teacher Geil Elementary School