Four New Staff Positions Added

What an exciting year of continued growth in the Lancaster County Extension office! In 2016, we welcomed four new positions to our team: 4-H Coordinator, Urban Entomologist, Growing Healthy Kids Educator and Domestic Water/Wastewater Management Educator.

Many positive impacts were made as a result of these staff additions. An increased number of Lancaster County youth gained skills in healthy lifestyles, career development and leadership, while becoming confident, caring and contributing citizens. Nearly 2,300 individuals and agency staff received direct education on bed bugs, head lice and a multitude of other pests in and around homes. Local expertise for managing water safety and quality will now be a readily available resource for homeowners and local and state agencies not only in Lancaster County, but across Nebraska.

For 2017, I am excited to watch additional growth as we are in the process of hiring Extension Educators to lead the Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP) and the supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program – Education (SNAP-Ed).

The new staff join a vibrant team working together to help Lancaster County residents use research-based knowledge in their daily lives.

New Growing Healthy Kids Educator Alyssa Hovlovic presenting a fitness activity to 2nd graders.

New Water Educator Meghan Sittler was a panel speaker at the Nebraska Water Center’s 2016 Water Symposium.

Benefit to People

“I’ve found the information provided by Nebraska Extension to be invaluable in formulating Lincoln City Libraries’ response to bed bug issues. Through their trainings, I’ve learned how to identify materials which may be contaminated so they can be immediately isolated and treated or removed from the collection. Extension provided training for our staff and are available to answer any questions we have.”

— Katie Murtha, Librarian, Bennett Martin Public Library

“I have seen firsthand the immense impact of [the Nutrition Education Program] cooking club and informal nutrition education opportunities shared with our diverse students. These students were able to gain a comprehensive understanding through hands-on activities that introduce them to a variety of resources in nutrition. Our students love cooking club and the feedback has been so positive with parents saying they now try club recipes at home.”

— Troy Mack, School Community Coordinator, Culver Middle School

“As part of Extension’s commitment to community learning, the Lancaster Extension Education Center conference facility is available to other nonprofit and governmental organizations at a nominal cost. In 2016, more than 92 agencies held approximately 5,453 hours of conferences and meetings in the facility. Pictured is the Lincoln Early Childhood Conference.”

— Anna Sump, 4-H youth

New 4-H Clubs - With more than 80 clubs ranging from 5 to 77 youth members, clubs are an important part of the Lancaster County 4-H program. 4-H clubs are led by adult volunteers and often hold regular meetings, elect youth officers, recite the 4-H pledge, learn together and do community service projects. Many club members participate in contests and fair events. Pictured are Little Green Giants 4-H club members making circuits as part of the 4-H electricity project.

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Over Half a Million Dollars!

4-H Youth Development

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4-H at Lancaster County Super Fair – At the 2016 Super Fair, nearly 730 4-H/FFA exhibitors showcased approximately 5,360 exhibits (including static exhibits, animals, contest entries and Clover Kids exhibits). The Super Fair provides 4-H youth an opportunity to showcase the projects they’ve worked on throughout the year. Pictured is the beef showmanship senior champion being congratulated by the judge.

4-H Engages 33,099 Youth

Nebraska Extension’s 4-H positive youth development program emphasizes hands-on learning in the areas of science, ag literacy, healthy lifestyles, career development and citizenship/leadership.

In the past year, 33,099 Lancaster County youth were engaged in 4-H programs, including clubs, school enrichment, after-school/summer sites and camps.

Conference Facility: A Center for Community Learning

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Extension’s Volunteers Worth Over Half a Million Dollars!

In 2016, Nebraska Extension in Lancaster County benefited from an estimated 1,429 volunteers who helped extend the reach of programs such as 4-H and Master Gardeners. The volunteers’ estimated 24,443 total hours of service are worth nearly $525,769 to our community! Pictured are Master Gardener volunteers presenting a composting demonstration.

* Based on Independent Sector’s estimate of Nebraska’s value of a volunteer hour in 2015 as $21.51