

## 2019 Extension Highlights

**N**EBRASKA EXTENSION is your local connection to university research-based information. Nebraska Extension in Lancaster County is a partnership between Lancaster County, University of Nebraska–Lincoln and the U.S. Department of Agriculture. We extend knowledge, provide solutions and change lives in these educational program areas:

- Community Environment
- Cropping & Water Systems
- Food, Nutrition & Health
- 4-H Youth Development
- Learning Child
- Beef Systems
- Community Vitality

Extension helps people solve real-world problems



**Disaster response and recovery resources** — After this year’s flooding and blizzard events, Nebraska Extension responded to individual and community needs statewide relaying information to the public, collaborating with partner agencies and organizations, and identifying solutions to help Nebraskans. Pictured is Extension Associate Soni Cochran (far right) with Winslow, Nebraska residents and UNL students enrolled in a Community and Regional Planning course. Students documented the layout of Winslow to assist as the village considered relocating to higher ground.

### Benefit to People



Courtesy photo

“This has been the most difficult job I’ve ever had, and the most fulfilling. The impact I’ve seen has been not only on the Linoma Beach site, where our progress

is daily and concrete, but also within myself. I have developed a newfound appreciation for the mechanisms of disaster relief and those who operate at these areas.”

—Ben Rhodes, who participated in the University of Nebraska–Lincoln student flood recovery serviceship program



**Weather and crops** — Extension Educator Tyler Williams (pictured at left) helps producers manage the impact weather and climate have on agricultural production. Due to this year’s weather events, his expertise was in high demand. Tyler co-authored one of the most-viewed news articles on UNL Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources’ CropWatch, “Nebraska’s Most Challenging 60 Days.” He was invited to present at 24 events to nearly 1,800 people. In addition, Tyler organized the Nebraska Climate Summit, where attendees learned from and engaged with experts in agriculture, human health, public policy and planning. 98% reported learning something new or making a new connection.



**Early childhood trainings and resources** — Last year, Extension Educator Jaci Foged (pictured far left) taught or coordinated 82 workshops for local child-care providers, including a training about Emergency Preparedness. In response to Nebraska’s flooding, Extension developed a program named Read For Resilience to support young children’s healing after a disaster and/or loss. Educators and specialists selected nine children’s books and developed accompanying storybook guides. Thanks to \$4,000 in donations, over 50 qualifying families received over 250 children’s books.



Dana Hardy

“The healthy cooking class [taught by the Nutrition Education Program] encouraged participants to eat healthy. It easily got them engaged and excited about healthy recipes and the cooking process. They became familiar with kitchen equipment and cooking technologies.”

—Lanetta Edison-Soe, Asian Community and Cultural Center Health Program Coordinator



**ProHort Update** — New this year, Extension Educator Sarah Browning offered a full-day workshop for nursery & green industry professionals, turf managers, public works employees, landscape managers, arborists and groundskeepers. Attendees learned how to create weather-ready landscapes, manage new insect pests, avoid tree risks and understand current turf fertilization recommendations. Participant evaluations indicated: 100% planned to change a tree management practice to improve tree health; 96% planned to use new practices to make the landscape they manage more weather resilient; 92% planned to use a new practice to positively identify insect pests.



**Nutrition Education Program (NEP)** — NEP provides nutrition education and food access resources through educational classes and policy, system and environmental (PSE) initiatives which help make the places people live, work and play healthier. Last year, NEP staff reached 142 families, 100 adults and 8,324 youth with direct education and 16,209 individuals with PSE approaches. Pictured is Extension Associate Dana Hardy (far left) at the Lincoln Public Schools’ McPhee Family Literacy Group. During the last class of the series, participants bring food to explore each others’ cultural cooking.



Morgan Hartman

“The recycling activities helped me learn about the environment and how important it is to not throw garbage everywhere. It was fun to learn about something we don’t learn in school every day, and it helped me understand how I can make my own environment better.”

—Zaniya Osborne, Campbell Elementary Community Learning Center afterschool youth who participated in 4-H Trash to Treasure activities



“Frustrated over the difference of opinion as to the cause of my corn crop’s poor health by my crop advisers, I turned to Tyler Williams at the County Extension office. He came out the same day and worked diligently until he correctly identified the problem.”

—Jerry Minchow, farmer

More impacts on next page

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