



Agenda Item # 16
Date 3/8/23

EXTENSION
INSTITUTE OF AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES
Dodge County

February 2023

Bob Missel, Chair
Dodge County Board of Supervisors
435 North Park
Fremont, NE 68025

RECEIVED
2023 FEB 27 PM 12:02
DODGE COUNTY, NEBRASKA
MICHI GILFRY, COUNTY CLERK

Dear Supervisor Missel:


Nebraska Extension is pleased to continue a strong tradition of making a difference in the lives of individuals, families, businesses and communities in Dodge County! Our programs address issues that Nebraskan's have identified as being important to them.

Enclosed you will find local Extension programming and financial summaries for 2022. Specific items include 1) Summary of 2021-22 budget expenditures, 2) Current fiscal year 2021-22 budget, 3) County Impact Report, 4) Brief program summary for each educator and assistant, and 5) Samples of Extension newsletters, major program brochures, and other products that represent 2022 programming.

Thank you for continuing to invest in Nebraska Extension as a local collaborative partner. We strive to be great stewards of resources and work hard every day to demonstrate a strong return on your investment. As you know, Extension educators and assistants live, work and engage with people in your local and area communities. We look forward to making a difference in the lives of Nebraskans together with you!

Sincerely,


Kathy Kneifl
Chair
Dodge County Extension Board


Dean Castillo
Extension Educator
Nebraska Extension in Dodge County

Enclosures

1206 W. 23rd St. / Fremont, NE 68025-2504
(402) 727-2775 / Fax (402) 727-2777 / E-mail: Dodge-County@unl.edu / Internet: http://dodge.unl.edu

DODGE COUNTY BUDGET -- FISCAL YEAR, 2022-2023

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M
				BUDGET EXPENSE	ACTUAL EXPENSE	BUDGET EXPENSE	ACTUAL EXPENSE	BUDGET EXPENSE	ACTUAL EXPENSE	DEPT. REQUEST	FINANCE COMM. PROPOSED	COUNTY BOARD PROPOSED	ADOPTED
				2019-2020	2019-2020	2020-2021	2020-2021	2021-2022	2021-2022	2022-2023	(5)	(5)	(6)
	Line #				(3)		(3)		(3)	(4)		(5)	(6)
380													
381			EXTENSION SERVICE										
382	1	0100 64500 10305	REGULAR CLERICAL	65,000	63,413.56	70,000	58,522.99	75,000	70,953.64	80,000	80,000	80,000	80,000
383	2	0100 64500 10405	PART-TIME CLERICAL	2,000	75.00	2,000	490.00	2,000	1,686.00	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000
384	3	0100 64500 10000 E5	PERSONAL SERVICES	67,000	63,488.56	72,000	59,012.99	77,000	72,639.64	82,000	82,000	82,000	82,000
385	4												
386	5	0100 64500 20100	POSTAGE	1,000	1,253.02	2,100	1,200.13	2,100	440.70	2,100	2,100	2,100	2,100
387	6	0100 64500 20200	TELEPHONE	4,100	3,375.78	3,800	7,672.16	3,800	3,501.42	3,800	3,800	3,800	3,800
388	7	0100 64500 20500	UTILITIES	6,300	5,154.99	6,300	5,603.26	6,300	6,295.45	7,000	7,000	7,000	7,000
389	8	0100 64500 20505	JANITORIAL,GARBAGE, SNOW	3,000	837.40	2,000	375.00	500	0.00	500	500	500	500
390	9	0100 64500 21101	COMPUTER EXPENSE										
391	10	0100 64500 21200	OFFICE EQUIP.-REPAIR	300	50.00	300	0.00	500	555.81	700	700	700	700
392	11	0100 64500 21704	MILEAGE,MEALS,LODGING	10,000	4,442.45	10,000	1,613.67	8,000	4,407.89	8,000	8,000	8,000	8,000
393	12	0100 64500 21801	DUES,SUBSCRIPTS,REG.	1,000	560.98	1,000	1,527.94	1,000	1,423.20	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
394	13	0100 64500 22544	SOFTWARE MAINTENANCE	1,100	858.34	1,000	766.60	1,000	724.40	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
395	14	0100 64500 22545	MAINTENANCE AGREEMENTS	200	180.00	200	180.00	200	260.26	200	200	200	200
396	15	0100 64500 24003	BIO-SOLIDS GRANT										
397	16	0100 64500 20000 E5	OPERATING EXPENSES	27,000	16,712.96	26,700	18,938.76	23,400	17,609.13	24,300	24,300	24,300	24,300
398	17												
399	18	0100 64500 30101	SUPPLIES	10,000	8,231.97	9,000	7,418.13	9,000	5,620.01	9,000	9,000	9,000	9,000
400	19	0100 64500 30000 E5	TOTAL SUPPLIES	10,000	8,231.97	9,000	7,418.13	9,000	5,620.01	9,000	9,000	9,000	9,000
401	20												
402	21	0100 64500 40501	EQUIPMENT/OFFICE RENT	9,000	7,827.64	9,000	5,348.22	9,000	9,861.89	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000
403	22	0100 64500 40000 E5	CONTRACTUAL/RENTAL	9,000	7,827.64	9,000	5,348.22	9,000	9,861.89	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000
404	23												
405	24	0100 64500 50500	EQUIPMENT	8,300	3,230.39	6,000	8,367.46	6,000	3,029.44	6,000	6,000	6,000	6,000
406	25	0100 64500 50000 G5	TOTAL CAPITAL OUTLAY	8,300	3,230.39	6,000	8,367.46	6,000	3,029.44	6,000	6,000	6,000	6,000
407	26												
408	27												
409	28	0100 64500	TOTAL EXTENSION SERVICE	121,300	99,491.52	122,700	99,085.56	124,400	108,760.11	131,300	131,300	131,300	131,300
410													
411		To the County Board:	To the County Board:										
412		Request is hereby made for the adoption of the estimated budget expenses for the fiscal year commencing	Request is hereby made for the adoption of the estimated budget expenses for the fiscal year commencing										
413		July 1, 2022, and ending July 1, 2022, and ending June 30, 2023 as indicated in Column (4).	July 1, 2022, and ending June 30, 2023 as indicated in Column (4).										
414													
415		Dated	Dated <u>10/3</u> 2022	<u>Extension</u>	<u>John M. Pope</u>								
416				Office, Activity or Function	Signature of Officer								

2022 Summary Statement

Dean Castillo - Extension Educator

As a new 4-H Educator starting in a county with a strong community club program and a smaller presence in local schools and after-school programs, my work this past year focused on beginning to build a comprehensive 4-H program to reach the full potential for impacting youth in Dodge County. My initial goals were to meet with administrators and educators in local schools, begin to deliver programming to determine needs in these schools, and develop skills and attend trainings in curriculum that would meet these needs. This has resulted in the beginning of new partnerships, programming in schools/settings where the Dodge County 4-H program has not previously worked in, and developing a plan to provide interdisciplinary STEM programs in the county.

As the school year began, I made a concerted effort to meet with as many administrators in the county as possible and was able to connect with principals and superintendents at many sites. Dodge County 4-H had not previously connected with or had programming delivered in several of these sites. The goals of these meetings were to introduce myself, conduct an informal needs assessment, and highlight the opportunities that exist within 4-H and Extension. These relationships will continue to grow as I work in schools. This has already started as I have been able to find and take advantage of current needs in these schools. For example, one of the most impactful connections that I have made this year is with Fremont Middle School. I was initially invited to FMS for a back-to-school-night event to advertise the 4-H community club program. I was able to translate this invitation into a meeting with teachers and administrators during an in-service day. One teacher and counselor were very excited to have an outside speaker come into their 7th grade class that was a new offering this year focused on Career Explorations and the Nebraska Department of Education "Career Clusters Model". I was able to provide a special interest program focused on how careers are interconnected to produce everyday items, and also lead students through an activity where they identified factors that are important when considering careers and how they could compare and analyze careers based on relationships between these factors. This class was a great opportunity for me because all 7th grade students will rotate through this course during the school year. For the first part of the school year, I provided programming for 10 different classes of students, totaling approximately 266 youth, and will be back in spring 2023 to reach the entire 7th grade. FMS was not a site where Dodge County 4-H had previous connections.

I was able to take advantage of the opportunity at FMS was that I had pro-actively sought out trainings in State 4-H Program Areas outside of my STEM area of expertise. Having previous experience at several Universities I developed a passion for helping undergraduate students from minoritized groups navigate the college experience. When I heard about the Next Chapter program through the College & Career readiness area, I knew it was a program that had the potential to impact youth in Dodge County. The program I delivered at FMS relied on curriculum from Next Chapter that I adapted and expanded. I also delivered lessons based on Next Chapter curriculum at an Apply2College event at Logan View High School. For the past couple of years, programming at the Apply2College event was delivered by the Washington County 4-H Educator, but now I was able to step into this role and I expand my role as the Next Chapter Representative for both counties.

One overarching goal is to weave quantitative, math, and STEM skills into all areas that I am working in. This has motivated my local programming and also my efforts working with state focus groups and extension specialists. At a local level I worked with the SNAP-Ed Educator, Beth Nacke, to develop a plan for the 4-H program and NEP program to work collaboratively on providing Healthy Habits curriculum in the coming year. This will also provide an opportunity for the 4-H program to deliver PE curriculum that incorporates STEM content into the PE classroom. I contributed to a grant in collaboration with WICS educator, Nate Dorsey, that was awarded through the Dan Gillespie Soil Health

Fund. This grant is bringing in \$750 with a potential for matching funds for another \$750, and will focus on purchasing a soil health table. I will deliver youth programming that makes connections between environmental science and agriculture. I have also submitted a SARE youth educator grant in collaboration with Nate Dorsey and Beth Nacke (Castillo PI) to integrate research experiences for older youth centered on sustainable agriculture. At the state level, I am working as a member of STEM 4-H team, focused on STEM Field Days. As part of my 4-H mentor experience I attended the STEM Field Day in Madison County and also delivered programming at a STEM Day in Douglas County. Being able to observe and participate in these programs in multiple counties has given me a unique view into similarities and differences and how we can be strategic as we start working towards offering these as a statewide program. I have also contributed feedback to for the evaluation team and I expect that my role on this team will grow, especially as we begin to work with local school districts to provide STEM field days.

Having my background and interest in STEM has opened additional opportunities with national efforts and departments within UNL. Becky Swanson, an extension STEM specialist, contacted me to become a member of the Click2Engineering team. This program facilitates a community of practice as a professional development opportunity for individuals working in After school settings. Not only am I collaborating with extension specialists but I am working with faculty from other institutions and building connections with afterschool providers. As a member of the team I work to set our agenda, facilitate conversations, and “model” the expectations of the community of practice. This is a virtual CoP so being able to get input and enthusiasm and make connections is important. This experience as a member of Click2Engineering has also inspired new programming work and partnerships on the local level within the county. While Science and Engineering share many overlaps there are key distinctions that are important when teaching and leading youth through these activities. As a facilitator for Click2Engineering I had a couple of “Aha” moments of how I can leverage these similarities and decided to focus on opportunities to get hands on experience teaching engineering specifically. The afterschool program in Fremont, which is the largest district in Dodge County, is continually looking for curriculum for their programs. I established a new partnership with the afterschool program to deliver Engineering programming to all 8 of their sites starting in February 2023. My goal is to be able to start training afterschool staff to deliver this programming after they see it in action.

Lastly, my interest in bringing STEM programming made me curious to determine what outreach opportunities and/or curriculums were being developed in academic units at UNL main campus. I started this process before the announcement of the Extension Affiliate program, so then I focused on units within IANR and CASNR and found a good mutual fit between myself and the Entomology Department. My extension affiliate status was approved at the end of December 2022 and I am excited to make connections with this department that I can share with other 4-H educators interested in working with STEM and insects in their programming.

2022 Summary Statement

Nate Dorsey- Extension Educator

I started my journey with Nebraska Extension on February 14, 2022. This year has been a year of learning, participation, and ideation. While I am told that the first year in extension is challenging, I feel that I have been highly successful and have accomplished much. As a result, I feel that I have set a strong foundation for my career in extension and am poised to launch programs that will be highly impactful in 2023 and beyond.

Much of my first year in extension was spent learning from other more experienced extension educators. This included starting my extension appointment by assisting with the private applicator pesticide safety education program. I had the opportunity to assist Aaron Nygren and Luan Oliveira with several training events, including trainings held in Fremont and West Point, Nebraska. From survey results, 72% of participants indicated they would utilize PPE and other safe pesticide practices as a result of the training.

As my time with extension increased, I continued to learn from other educators. This included working closely with Katie Pekarek, Amy Timmerman, Jeremy Milander, Aaron Nygren and others on programming held in the region. As part of these opportunities, I lent my experience in agriculture technology, irrigation, writing, and video production to serve as a primary presenter or project partner.

Examples of programs that I was a presenter at included the Bazile Groundwater Management Field Day, where I co-presented with Steve Melvin and Bruno Lena about variable rate irrigation to around 30 individuals. I then presented at the Corn and Soybean Management Field Days held at ENREEC, where I spoke about soil moisture sensors and data interpretation. Based on surveys conducted at these meetings, the estimated value gained from the program for producers and consultants totaled \$26,511,682 and was ranked as one of the best (26%) or above average (74%) programs they had attended. Additionally, I had the opportunity to help organize and participate in several field days and events related to the highboy cover crop interseeding project organized by Katie Pekarek, where I created a podcast episode and a video, with 117 listens and 244 views respectively.

Later, I presented at the Confronting Cropping Challenges events, which offered private pesticide applicator recertification, in Madison and David City, NE in December 2022, which totaled 127 participants. At these events, an average of 55% of participants rated it as above average and 83% of participants agreed or strongly agreed that it increased their knowledge of sprayer calibration, the section that I presented. I also had the opportunity to present at water certification trainings organized by the Lower Platte North Natural Resources District where I spoke about variable rate irrigation as an approach to improve ground and surface water quality.

In addition to assisting with these events in my content area, I also assisted with several 4-H events. This included serving as a judge at the Youth Crop Scouting Competition held at ENREEC, where 30 youth participated. I also helped at the Dodge and Washington County Fairs, where I served as a judge for various categories, including crops and rockets. I also hosted

a workshop on drones at the Dodge County Extension office, where 20 youth participated to learn about drones and how to fly them.

While I have thoroughly enjoyed participating in other people's programs and feel that I brought value, I was also highly motivated in 2022 to create connections and begin developing my own programs. As such, I have put a lot of effort into networking and building a directory of growers in my region. At present, I have a directory of 2,775 individuals representing farmers, agribusiness, and other relevant organizations.

I also began planning to re-launch the Fremont Corn Expo, which will be held in January 2023. This event required a lot of planning in 2022, such as mailing postcards to 2,500 individuals in my directory, securing 38 exhibitors to help fund the show, finding sponsors for breakfast and lunch, developing a program which includes several speakers from University of Nebraska-Lincoln, and more.

Another unique program which I took ownership of in 2022 was the Nebraska CropWatch Podcast. With the departure of Melissa Bartels, I was a natural fit to take on the additional role of being the host. In the past, the average number of listens for the podcast was around 16 per episode. In my tenure, I have focused on developing more regular content and have partnered with IANR media to better market the show, and at the end of the 2022 season averaged around 100 listens per episode, for a total of 1,500 listens during 2022.

In addition to the podcast, other communication channels that I have regularly contributed to include the CropWatch website, local newspapers, and local radio stations. In 2022, I was the primary author of three and a co-author of five CropWatch articles. For the articles on which I was the primary author, the article views totaled 1,407. I also submitted articles to local newspapers, including five to the Fremont Tribune, and five to the Enterprise. Lastly, I have been a regular contributor to KTIC radio, and recorded a monthly spot focused on agriculture technology for the station.

The final area of my programming that I am pleased to report on is my extension work around agriculture technology. I have made valuable contributions in this area as part of two teams, namely SmartMachinery headed by Luan Oliveira, and the Digital Agriculture Focus Team, led by myself in 2022. As part of the SmartMachinery team, I have been a co-applicant on several grants with awards in total of \$37,192 to investigate irrigation uniformity and precision planting tools. I have also developed a stand count calculator and published four articles on the SmartMachinery website that have an average of 40 views each. I also started the process to deliver an online asynchronous course to prepare learners to earn their Part 107 Remote Pilot Certificate which was halfway complete at the end of 2022.

Lastly, I was asked to serve as a Digital Agriculture Focus Team Lead and was successful in connecting with other faculty members to help guide the development of a State Action Plan. As a result of these efforts, a formal survey of growers is scheduled to be conducted in January of 2023 to assess the condition of agriculture technology in Nebraska. I also engaged with the Nebraska Agricultural Technologies Association (NeATA) and laid the groundwork for further partnerships and programming around agriculture technology going forward.

2022 Summary Statement

Beth Nacke

In 2022, I continued my participation in monthly local and regional food security task force meetings. Involvement has served as a method to learn more about the systemic issues facing food security as well as an opportunity to collaborate with new partners to bring the *Monthly Meal Kits (MMK)* to additional communities. The *MMK* program provides support for youth living with hunger, and addresses the need of healthy, safe food for individuals with limited access. Through partnerships developed within the coalition, *MMK* has expanded into 11 counties, engaging 355 youth in nutrition education, increasing access to safe and nutritious foods, and boosting local economies.

The strong partnership with the Fremont Public Schools Physical Education department helped to expand program efforts beyond the elementary setting, bringing nutrition education to 282 middle school students in PE classes. Building upon the relationship with PE, I was able to establish a lesson series with the middle school health teacher that occurs with each new quarter class, reaching 221 youth with the *Exercise Your Options* curriculum from the California Dairy Council.

Marathon Kids is a national running program designed to motivate youth and introduce them to the joys of physical activity. I continue to serve on the *Nebraska Extension Marathon Kids (NEMK)* leadership team. In 2022, the *NEMK* leadership team conducted 1 virtual and 3 in-person coach training sessions, training 18 community partners. We also presented at 3 state conferences, and one national conference to bring attention to this highly impactful program.

I was able to take the first steps in accomplishing a professional development goal from 2021 through my selection to participate in the Cornell University Public Health Essentials program. This 18-week program provided me with the necessary skills and knowledge to bring public health components into my daily work and programs.

Partnerships/Coalitions

- Fremont Family Coalition
- Nebraska VOAD Food Security Task Force
- Community and Family Partnership Council-Serving Colfax and Platte Counties
- Nebraska Team Nutrition
- Whole Child, Whole Community Coalition
- Nebraska Department of Education
- Community Nutrition Partnership Council

Leadership

- Nutrition Education Program supervisor
- Fremont Family Coalition Leadership Board-Executive Team
- School Wellness Team Coordinator
- Nebraska Extension Marathon Kids (NEMK) Leadership Team
- Monthly Meal Kit (MMK) Program Coordinator
- Nebraska Department of Education LIFT Contract Coordinator

Grant Work

- Healthy Habits
- Growing Together Nebraska
- Nebraska Children and Families Foundation
- Nebraska Department of Education, Team Nutrition LIFT
- DHHS American Rescue Plan Act

Programs of Significant Impact:

- Monthly Meal Kits
 - 355 students enrolled
 - Household reach: 849 youth, 611 adults
 - \$63,481 infused into local economies in 11 counties
 - \$441,600 secured funding to expand program efforts
 - Hired and supervised student employee
 - Partnered with Dodge County 4-H Council to install Little Free Pantries
- Healthy Habits - CATCH PE Nutrition lessons
 - Fremont Public Schools-9 sites
 - 962 youth grades 4, 6, 7, and 8
 - 6 sessions, 9 lesson topics
- Nebraska Extension Marathon Kids (NEMK)
 - State-wide coordination
 - 9 Extension staff and 2 external community coaches, delivered 51 programs in 12 counties to over 1640 youth and adults
 - Youth impacts noted at the end of the program: (n=267)
 - Significant differences in the following questions:
 - I can do many types of physical activities if I work hard and practice. Definitely Yes (58 -> 69%) 11% increase
 - I really like to be physically active Definitely Yes(45 -> 53%) 8% increase
 - When I do physical activity, my body feels good. Definitely Yes (44 -> 49%) 5% increase
 - 60% responded, yes, I enjoyed Marathon Kids
 - 63% responded yes, I recommend Marathon Kids to other kids
 - Cedar Bluffs Summer STEAM
 - 4-session program 6/9/22-6/30/22
 - 76 youth, 3 adults, logging 768.5 miles
 - Dodge County Summer STEAM
 - 6-session program 6/13/2022-7/25/2022
 - 27 youth, 2 adults, logging 697.75 miles
- Growing Together Nebraska-Dodge County
 - Coordinated three garden locations
 - Donated 2,858 pounds of produce to 1,346 low-income individuals at 4 partner sites
 - Engaged 14 volunteers (including 3 Master Gardeners) completing 682 volunteer hours

Lisa Poppe, Early Childhood Educator
Engagement Zone 8

The *Fit and Healthy Kids* platform continued to expand during 2022. I am the co-developer, teacher, host, marketer, and evaluator for this program.

The *Fit and Healthy Kids Website (co-developer)* targets Early Childhood Professionals from around the world. In 2022, analytics showed that the website had 50,000 visitors and we hit every state in the United States with Nebraska being the highest. 2:38 was the average session duration and September and January were the peak times.

One Hour, Once a Month - FHK (co-taught, marketer, evaluator) web-based training sessions were offered this year for 6 months. 4,640 childcare provider hours were awarded. 122,408 indirect children were touched by the knowledge gained. Our client's knowledge grew from 16% before the class who were very or extremely knowledgeable of the subject matter to after the class 79% of the providers were very or extremely knowledgeable of the subject matter. Our providers stated a financial benefit because of behavioral changes they would implement because of the program: the total average (saved/gained) per month \$159,810 and the total average (saved/gained) per year \$1,917,720. A participant stated, "*The class changed how I think about children with behavior issues and now I look more at why they're acting the way they are.*"

Discover and Design – FHK (marketer and evaluator) is a newly developed webpage that provides age-appropriate, engaging activities for young children. New lessons are added quarterly. Within the first 6 months 254 users downloaded 1,329 lessons from 17 different states and 3 countries indirectly reaching 6,969 children. After a two-month post-evaluation, data reveals: 100% of users are very likely to recommend the lessons to others and 100% of users strongly agree that they will use additional resources from Discover and Design.

In-Depth Learning Circle *Baby STEM – FHK (co-teacher, developer, evaluator)*, encompass a series of learning sessions with homework assignments in-between sessions. Childcare providers can take the knowledge gained from the learning sessions and practice it within their early childcare setting. Evaluation reveals: 100% of participants will design environments to promote young children's learning of science, technology, or math. 100% of participants implemented STEM activities with infants and designed two STEM lesson plans that they shared with the class. "*Realizing that even the youngest of infants can partake in STEM activities.*" wrote a participant.

The *Learning in the Heartland – FHK (Team lead, marketer, evaluator)* virtual field trips program took children on many adventures. Over the past 12 months 207 users downloaded 457 lesson plans that indirectly reached 6,493 children. After a two-month post-evaluation data revealed users are extremely satisfied with the program and they felt the program was beneficial for the children. One participant wrote, "*It was great to see how children could learn with multiple devices about the community around them. The resources given to assist were detailed and well planned out. The professionals portrayed were diverse.*"

On-Demand Classes – FHK (co-developer, marketer, evaluator, teacher) are two hours of continuing education classes for early childhood professionals that they can take at their own pace. Within the last 12 months 198 classes were taken. 396 childcare provider hours were awarded with 9,033 indirect children touched by the knowledge gained. After class, 82% of participants felt very to extremely knowledgeable and 84% felt they were more in control. 99% of participants stated they would use the information. A participant stated, *“I would have to say that this class has made me feel more confident in myself as an individual. I believe that I have found the courage to do my job to the best of my abilities.”* The providers stated a financial benefit because of behavioral changes they would implement because of the program. The total average (saved/gained) per month \$847 and the total average per year was \$10,166.

The **Virtual Conference on Mindfulness – FHK (co-developer, marketer, evaluator)** was multi-level learning over a duration of time. The conference is designed with hands-on experiences and interactions. These engaging trainings are delivered over a two-month span. 100% of participants stated they will provide opportunities for children to use their senses during lunch and snack times. After a two-month period a post evaluation revealed that 90% of participants that went through the multiple levels of participation, were able to retain the information and implement activities over a longer time than a one-day conference. A testimonial from a participant: *“It’s going to make a huge impact in my home daycare and preschool – I have been very interested in learning more about mindfulness and this program more than met my hopes and expectations.”*

I have **co-authored** two on demand lessons which are housed at **Penn State’s Better Kid Care**. Over a five-year timeframe 10,465 classes have been completed with 20,930 credit hours awarded. 87% of participants gained knowledge about Positive Relationships and will use the strategies provided in the lessons.

The **Co-Parenting for Successful Kids (teacher)** program requires parents who are in the process of divorce or paternity proceedings to take a class on communication. In 2022, the program served 1,708 participants. I graded 3,536 assignments which generated \$2,986 for my cost object. Participants reported the average of 30% increase on their co-parenting knowledge after the program, compared to their previous knowledge. (n=1409)

In 2022, I renewed my certified **Professional Development Specialist** for the CDA Program (Child Development Associate Credential). I am certified in Family Home, Infant/Toddler and Child Care Center. I completed observations for six childcare providers. *“For many of our teachers, completing their CDA is a tremendous achievement in their career. We are thankful to Nebraska Extension for providing support and guidance as our teachers completed this journey,”* Offutt Child Development Center Director.

I am a **coach** for the Dodge County **Rooted in Relationships** initiative. In 2022, we finished our 4-year cohort and started our second cohort in the fall. I taught three, 6-hour modules for the program and coached four childcare providers for 60 minutes every month. External evaluators observed childcare rooms at baseline, the mid-point and Year 3. Classrooms demonstrated strong improvements in implementing Pyramid Model practices over time. Negative practices decreased and fidelity to the model increased.

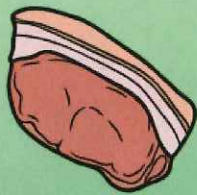


Dodge County 4-H



Summer Workshop Schedule

May 25-26, 9am-3pm: Babysitting Basics
(ages 11+)



June 1, 9am-12pm: Pork Science
(Limit 20)

June 7, 9am-12pm: Clover Kid Daycamp
(Ages 5-7)



June 14, 9am-12pm: Home Environment Crafts

June 16, 9am-12pm: Healthy Living

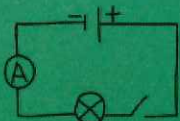


June 21, 9am-12pm: Conservation
(@ Fremont State Lakes)

June 23, 9am-12pm: Aerospace



June 28, 9am-12pm: Pollinator Habitat
(Limit 20)



June 30, 9am-12pm: Electric Excitement

Why 4-H School Enrichment?

- 4-H School Enrichment offers experiential learning programs that are designed to enrich and enhance classroom curriculum.
- Each program is aligned with the Nebraska State Board of Education Content Area Standards
- All programs provide research-based content delivered with hands-on activities
- Experiences develop in-depth knowledge, raise awareness, and help youth find their spark and motivation.



Contact Us

dodge.unl.edu

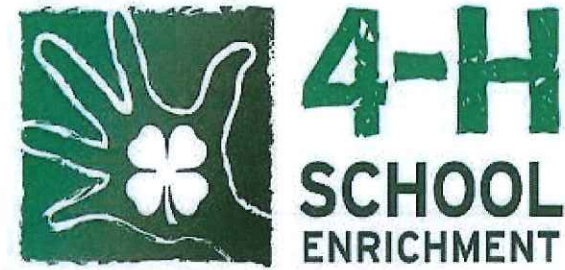


@UNLDodgeCounty



dodge-county@unl.edu

Dean Castillo
Shane Ahrens
404.727.2775



Dodge County



EXTENSION

402.727.2775
1206 W 23rd St
Fremont NE 68025

Program Offerings

Included is a sample of our courses and information for what programs 4-H School Enrichment can offer.

We are always interested in finding or developing additional content to meet the need of educators. If you are interested in additional areas reach out to us!

Program Areas

4-H School Enrichment is based on the Nebraska State 4-H framework that empowers youth with skills in the areas of STEM, Agricultural Literacy, Leadership Development, Entrepreneurship, Career & College Success, and Healthy Living.

Some of the diverse courses and programs we can offer include

- Agricultural Literacy
- Kitchen Science, Family and Consumer Science
- Engineering
- Environmental Science



Other STEM programs include

Insect Lifecycle: Pre K-5th

Look Who's Hatching: Pre K-2nd

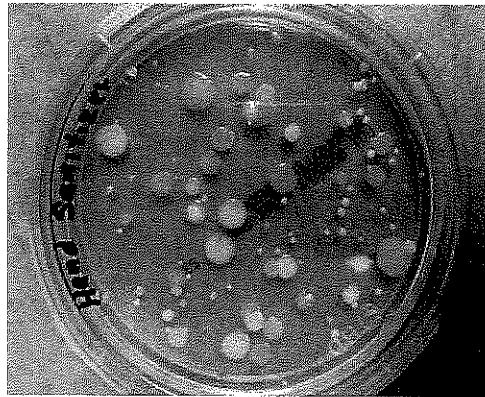
Bridges and Structures: 3rd-8th

STEM

Embryology: 3rd-12th

Students explore the role of the egg in reproduction and evolution. Advanced students will learn about the genetics of development. Students monitor the incubator and rotate the eggs daily.

Nebraska School Standards: SC.3.9.3.A, SC.4.6.3.C, SC.5.8.2.A, SC.6.9.3.A-C, SC.8.10.5.B-C, SC.HS.6.1.A-C,



Microbiology: 5th- 12th

Microbes are integral parts of all living systems. In this program youth will learn about different types of common microbes present in the environment and on food. Youth will isolate and culture microbes from the environment

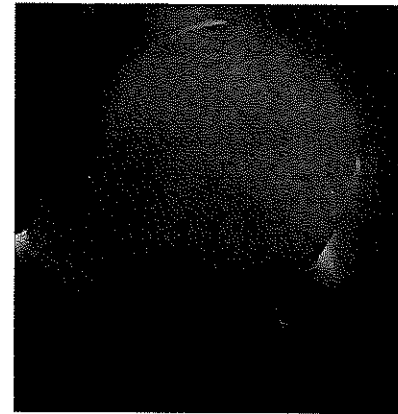
Nebraska School Standards SC.5.3.1.C, SC.6.6.2.A-D, SC.HS.10.5.B

Ag Literacy

Farm in a Glove: 1st - 5th

Students will learn about agriculture in Nebraska and its impact on their daily lives, the parts of a plant and plant lifecycles, and participate in growing common crops in a glove to observe germination and growth.

Nebraska School Standards: SC.K.7.2.A, SC.1.6.2.B, SC.2.7.2.A, SC.3.9.3.A, SC.4.6.3.B



Ag in the Classroom Kit: 3rd-8th

Portable kits facilitate exploration and understanding of Nebraska's largest industry. Kits include activities in the areas of crop production and livestock production that teachers can complete at their own pace.

Nebraska School Standards: SC.K.7.2.A, SC.1.6.2.B, SC.2.7.2.A, SC.3.9.3.A, SC.4.6.3.B



UNIVERSITY of NEBRASKA-LINCOLN

NEXT CHAPTER AT NEBRASKA



Get a Head Start on Preparing for College

Next Chapter at Nebraska is a college and career readiness program offered to enrolled Nebraska 4-H members at the beginning of their 8th-grade year.

In Next Chapter at Nebraska, you'll stretch your strengths, develop skills to set yourself up for success and build a foundation for your academic future.

The Next Chapter Program:

- Inspires youth to continue their education after high school.
- Teaches college and career readiness skillsets.
- Engages students in service learning and community contribution.
- Encourages students to explore career paths.
- Builds essential life skills, including communication, stress management and self-motivation.
- Provides support throughout all four years of high school.





Start Defining Your Future Today

Throughout high school, Next Chapter at Nebraska scholars engage in college and career preparatory activities; complete a service-learning project, attend social events and participate in curriculum to help them succeed in their transition to college.

College Preparation

- Research post-secondary institutions and their admissions requirements.
- Learn best practices for completing college applications and essays.
- Explore scholarships and financial aid opportunities.

Wellness and Community Engagement

- Develop and support a service-learning project.
- Identify personal values and learn stress management techniques.
- Identify Diversity, Equity and Inclusion strategies to support your community.

Career Exploration

- Identify career and academic goals.
- Develop your resume and sharpen interview skills.
- Practice professional communication.

Academic Development

- Learn the importance of time management and study skills.
- Identify cycles of procrastination and learn how to be self-motivated.
- Practice effective communication and public speaking.

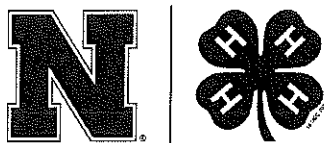
Get Started With Next Chapter at Nebraska

If you are enrolling in 4-H for the first time, you must contact your local Extension office before beginning the 4-H online enrollment process. Visit go.unl.edu/dc_enroll and/or call the Dodge county office at 402-727-2775

Register for the Next Chapter at Nebraska program in your county at ne.4Honline.com

Learn more at admissions.unl.edu/nextchapter

The Next Chapter program is a partnership between Nebraska Extension 4-H Youth Development and Nebraska's Office of Admissions.



Dean Castillo
Extension Educator,
Dodge County Extension
dodge-county@unl.edu

N EXTENSION



Nate Dorsey
Extension Educator
Water and Integrated Cropping Systems (WICS)
nate.dorsey@unl.edu
402-704-6121

12/12/2022

Dodge County

- Total of 71.8 hrs of direct constituent communication year-to-date
 - Email- 51 mins
 - Phone- 15.2 hrs
 - In-Person- 69.8 hrs
 - Programming- 6.5 hrs
- Total of 85 unique contacts

Grants

- Nebraska Growers' Awareness about Proper Center Pivot Uniformity of Water Application, Nate Dorsey, Luan Oliveira, Bruno Lena- \$18,192
- Evaluation of Precision Planting Technologies and Digital Tools on Soybeans Production, Nate Dorsey, Luan Oliveira, Bruno Lena- \$19,000
- Dan Gillespie Soil Health Fund, Nate Dorsey, Dean Castillo, \$750 with possibility of additional \$750 matching

UNL CropWatch Podcast

- Will be starting 5th season in January 2023
- 55 episodes released as of now
- Over 13,800 listens so far this year

Smart Machinery

- Working on Part 107 drone certification class, about halfway done. Targeting release for this spring.
- Working on other programming, such as a planter clinic, Drones in Ag Conference

Fremont Corn Expo

- Christensen Field has been reserved for January 25-27.
- Set up- Jan. 25, main event- Jan. 26, tear down- Jan. 27
- The program is set for the event.
- Working on marketing for the next several weeks.

CONTAINER GARDENING 101

KATHLEEN CUE
EXTENSION
EDUCATOR,
HORTICULTURE

PLEASE JOIN US NEXT MONTH
FOR A **FREE** WORKSHOP HOSTED
BY DODGE COUNTY EXTENSION'S
GROWING TOGETHER NEBRASKA TEAM!

*REGISTRATION REQUIRED. SEE BELOW.

LET'S GARDEN IN A CONTAINER!

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 8TH AT 4:00 PM
DODGE COUNTY EXTENSION OFFICE
1206 W 23RD ST, FREMONT



FAMILIES
WELCOME!

VEGETABLE OPTIONS:

TOMATO PLANT
PEPPER PLANT
CUCUMBER SEEDS
ONION SETS

PARTICIPANTS WILL RECEIVE
CONTAINERS, COMPOST, &
THEIR CHOICE OF TWO
VEGETABLES AT NO COST,
COURTESY OF EXTENSION.

N
EXTENSION
Master Gardener

SNAP-Ed
NEP
Nutrition Education Program

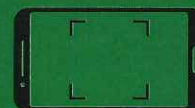
GROWING TOGETHER NEBRASKA

HEALTH BENEFITS OF FRESH PRODUCE

BETH NACKE, RD
EXTENSION
EDUCATOR,
SNAP-ED

FOR MORE DETAILS ON
LESSON TOPICS

SCAN ME



REGISTER TODAY!

*SPACE IS LIMITED,
REGISTRATION ENDS 6/7.

N EXTENSION



Family Healthy Living Class

Thursdays @
8:45 am
beginning
November 3rd

Register Now!



Together we will discover

new ways to menu plan

healthy family meals to
please everyone

food budgeting

fun ways to exercise as a
family

Nebraska Extension MARATHON KIDS

Marathon Kids is a national running program designed to motivate kids and introduce them to the joy of physical activity!

Interested in becoming a Nebraska Extension Marathon Kids Coach?

Attend one of the following **FREE** sessions and walk (or run!) away ready to implement Marathon Kids in your own community!

2022 COACH TRAININGS

- Thursday, April 21st - West Point, NE
- Friday, April 22nd - Lincoln, NE
- Thursday, April 28th - North Platte, NE
- Wednesday, June 8th - Virtual

All sessions are from 10AM - 3PM.

Lunch will be provided.

TO REGISTER:

Use the **QR Code** or go to
go.unl.edu/nemkcoachregister

Please register for in-person trainings by Thursday, April 7th.



If you have questions, please contact Mariah Newmyer at mariah.newmyer@unl.edu.

**MARATHON
KIDS**

N EXTENSION



Online Professional Development Workshops for Early Childhood Professionals

Complimentary continuing education hours? Don't want to travel?
Pull up a comfortable chair and join us on the web! Attend the live session or watch a recording up to one week later.

Courses offered by Fit and Healthy Kids may be accepted by Nebraska, Georgia, Iowa and South Dakota to meet annual in-service training requirements.



PRACTICING SELF-CARE: FOUNDATIONAL TO CARING FOR OTHERS

October 3, 2022, 7:00-8:00 p.m. CST

Self-care is something we should all make sure to incorporate into our daily lives. It is directly related to our ability to care for others.

Instructor: Leigh Anne Aaron, UGA Extension Family and Consumer Sciences Agent



WATER LESSONS FOR PRESCHOOLERS

November 7, 2022, 7:00-8:00 p.m. CST

The Water Lessons for Preschoolers curriculum is a hands-on curriculum created to support preschool children's learning about water quality, wetlands, and streams. Attendees will learn how to teach this curriculum which provides preschoolers and their teachers with opportunities to explore and how to teach about the water cycle, aquifers, rivers, wetlands, and water treatment.

Instructor: Dr. Tiffany L. Messer, Assistant Professor at the University of Kentucky



BUILDING LITERACY WITH PLAY & TECHNOLOGY

December 5, 2022, 7:00-8:00 p.m. CST

Participants will learn how to incorporate literacy curricula both through general play time or centers and using technology platforms. This workshop will be interactive and will allow participants to take home resources to use right away in their programs.

Instructor: Audrey Rider, SDSU Extension Early Childhood Field Specialist



BEING IN THE MOMENT WITH INFANTS

January 9, 2023, 7:00-8:00 p.m. CST

Infants need our emotional availability to regulate themselves. Early childhood professionals will learn strategies to support infants in this critical time of their emotional development and bonding.

Instructors: LaDonna Werth & Lisa Poppe, Extension Educators, University of Nebraska-Lincoln



CHILDHOOD WELLNESS PANEL

February 6, 2023, 7:00-8:00 p.m. CST

The panel will discuss how childcare providers can support young children's health and wellness. We will cover dental health, immunizations, and hearing and vision.

Instructor: Christy Stuth, Area Associate Agent Family, Consumer, and Health Sciences, University of Arizona Extension



SUPPORTING FAMILY ENGAGEMENT AND CONNECTIONS

March 6, 2023, 7:00-8:00 p.m. CST

A child's overall development is strengthened when educators and families work together. In this presentation, we will explore strategies for engagement and connection with children and their families.

Instructor: Tristen Cope, Kansas State Extension Family and Youth Development Agent

Lakeshore

To register go to: <https://go.unl.edu/fhkonehour>

There is an option to watch the "live" or "recorded" version of each session. You will have one week after the recorded session is available to watch the webinar and receive continuing education credits.

Questions? Email fhk@unl.edu or call 402-336-2760



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Kathleen Cue, Horticulture Extension Educator in Dodge County

End of the Year Report 2022

Burt, Cuming, Dakota, Dixon, Dodge, Stanton, Saunders, Thurston, Washington, and Wayne Counties

- 59 contacts made through plant/insect samples submitted for diagnosis/identification
- 548 contacts made through answering horticulture questions via the phone
- 168 contacts made through email inquiries
- 9 contacts through site assessments
- 792 contacts through programs (309 youth, 463 adults)

1576 Total Contacts in 2022

-
- Number of news articles/blogs: 28 to 10 county Extension webpages and 26 media outlets
 - Extension Master Gardener Volunteer Hours within Accountability Region

Dodge County: 8 Master Gardeners volunteered a total of 343 hours to community projects.

1112 Pounds of produce grown for the food insecure for Growing Together Nebraska-Dodge County with 192 Master Gardener Volunteer hours

Saunders County: 3 Master Gardeners volunteered 81 hours to community projects.

Washington County: 11 Master Gardeners volunteered 529 hours to community projects.

625 Pounds of produce grown for the food insecure for Growing Together Nebraska-Washington County with 91 Master Gardener Volunteer hours

- Coordination of 6 Dodge County Extension Board meetings, 1 Legislative Day, and 1 Dodge County Board of Supervisors Thank You Luncheon.

• I am retiring and January 6, 2023, is my last day. I deeply appreciate your patience as I transitioned to my role of working with the members of the Dodge County Extension Board. Dean Castillo has stepped forward to continue the work.

Dodge County Impact At-A-Glance



Brought to you by Nebraska Extension

Dodge.unl.edu



Learning to successfully grow, carefully harvest, and safely prepare foods from a home garden is essential knowledge for Nebraskans seeking to improve diet quality and reduce food expenses.

Dodge County Extension has worked as an interdisciplinary team to provide robust, hand-on learning experiences for Dodge County residents utilizing Growing Together Nebraska (GTN) gardens on the extension property. Through the growing season, 79 youth and 9 adults participated in lessons with a variety of topics aimed at assisting participants in gaining confidence in the ability to grow safe, nutritious produce and reduce dependency on store-bought foods. Integral to the success of the GTN garden, are the volunteer Master Gardeners whose dedication and expertise ensure a bountiful harvest.

Programs At-A-Glance

- Rooted in Relationships and the Pyramid Model empower communities to implement evidence-based practices, enhancing the social-emotional development of children birth through age 8
- “The Pyramid Model training has changed everything about the way we work with children. It has given us the foundation we need to be successful.” - A Dodge County Provider

1,290

Youth reached through 4-H clubs and School programs in Ag literacy, STEM & College/Career Readiness

54

Crop Watch episodes created to inform producers of emerging issues and innovative strategies

2,858

Pounds of fresh produce donated to Dodge County residents experiencing food and nutrition insecurity

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Data and content in this document are based on Nebraska Extension programming and initiatives during 2022.