2015

2015 Extension Highlights

Follow this and additional works at: http://digitalcommons.unl.edu/extlanannrpt

http://digitalcommons.unl.edu/extlanannrpt/15

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Extension at DigitalCommons@University of Nebraska - Lincoln. It has been accepted for inclusion in Annual Report Archive from UNL Extension in Lancaster County by an authorized administrator of DigitalCommons@University of Nebraska - Lincoln.
2015 Extension Highlights

In 2015, Extension Educator Sarah Browning, Associate Mary Jane Frogge and Master Gardeners assisted residents and green industry professionals through over 12,000 contacts (phone calls, walk-in requests, email questions, site visits, program participants and listserve) and 116 hours of horticulture-related programming. For example, Master Gardeners volunteered to maintain the People’s City Mission community garden, teaching residents how to care for and harvest garden crops.

Extension has extensive resources to help identify pests and recommends low-toxic control methods whenever possible. Extension Associate Soni Cochran assists thousands of area residents via phone calls, walk-in requests, email questions, publications, presentations, workshops and as a monthly guest on “Problems & Solutions,” hosted by Cathy Blythe on KFOR radio. The pest and wildlife website received 1.6 million unique page views in 2015.

In 2015, Extension Educator Tyler Williams (pictured at right) helped organize UNL Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources’ exhibit at Husker Harvest Days which focused on “Successfully Weathering Extremes.” This year, he was the principal investigator or collaborator for four accepted agriculture-related grants totaling nearly $258,000. Two of the grant projects will focus on climate education and communication efforts for agriculture over the next year.

The Nutrition Education Program (NEP) helps limited-resource families learn to prepare nutritious and safe foods while stretching their food dollars. Last year, NEP staff completed lessons with 426 enrolled adults (2,217 teaching contacts) and reached 7,692 youth (11,183 teaching contacts). This year marked the 15-year-milestone of Lincoln Public Schools using nutrition kits developed by NEP staff to enhance LPS nutrition curriculum objectives. To date, teachers using the kits have spent 33,498 hours teaching 74,691 students in 3,800 classrooms. Pictured is Extension Assistant Colly Blake leading Everett 1st graders in a healthy snack activity.

In November, she presented a free class, “Make-Ahead Freezer Meals” (pictured above) at Bryan Health which was attended by over 300 people. Alice coordinates and contributes to Extension’s http://food.unl.edu statewide website which received over 2.6 million page views last year.

The 20th annual 4-H Clover College, held June 16–19, featured 55 hands-on workshops attended by 180 youth with a total 888 class registrations. More than 70 adult and teen volunteers taught or helped with the workshops. Pictured is Extension Associate Marty Crucikchank assisting with the Clover Kids Day Camp.

The Learning Child

Extension has presented a Fair Fun Day at the Lancaster County Fair since 1996. Child care groups with youth in grades K–4 are led on hands-on tours by teen volunteers. Extension Educator Loren Bortas (pictured standing at right) has organized it for many years. This year, 293 youth from 12 child care groups took tours, learning about fair activities and agriculture. To date, nearly 5,000 youth have participated.

In 2015, Nebraska Extension offers “Co-Parenting for Successful Kids” on-site and online classes to help separating and divorcing parents – the classes meet court-mandated requirements. Last year, 101 parents completed the classes offered in Lincoln and 330 Lancaster County parents took the class online. Pictured is Extension Educator Maureen Burson interacting with parents online.

Extension Educator Alice Henneman teaches people how to make healthy food choices and safely prepare food. In November, she presented a free class, “Make-Ahead Freezer Meals” (pictured above) at Bryan Health which was attended by over 300 people. Alice coordinates and contributes to Extension’s http://food.unl.edu statewide website which received over 2.6 million page views last year.

The Nutrition Education Program (NEP) helps limited-resource families learn to prepare nutritious and safe foods while stretching their food dollars. Last year, NEP staff completed lessons with 426 enrolled adults (2,217 teaching contacts) and reached 7,692 youth (11,183 teaching contacts). This year marked the 15-year-milestone of Lincoln Public Schools using nutrition kits developed by NEP staff to enhance LPS nutrition curriculum objectives. To date, teachers using the kits have spent 33,498 hours teaching 74,691 students in 3,800 classrooms. Pictured is Extension Assistant Colly Blake leading Everett 1st graders in a healthy snack activity.

The Learning Child

Extension has presented a Fair Fun Day at the Lancaster County Fair since 1996. Child care groups with youth in grades K–4 are led on hands-on tours by teen volunteers. Extension Educator Loren Bortas (pictured standing at right) has organized it for many years. This year, 293 youth from 12 child care groups took tours, learning about fair activities and agriculture. To date, nearly 5,000 youth have participated.

In 2015, Nebraska Extension offers “Co-Parenting for Successful Kids” on-site and online classes to help separating and divorcing parents – the classes meet court-mandated requirements. Last year, 101 parents completed the classes offered in Lincoln and 330 Lancaster County parents took the class online. Pictured is Extension Educator Maureen Burson interacting with parents online.
At the 2015 Lancaster County Super Fair, nearly 700 4-H/FFA exhibitors showcased nearly 5,100 exhibits (including static exhibits, animals, contest entries and Clover Kids exhibits). Due to the outbreak of avian influenza, live birds couldn’t be shown. Alternative 4-H poultry contests were created, including posters, presentations, poultry part identification and quiz bowl. The contests were such a success some will be incorporated into future fairs. Pictured is the largest dog junior showmanship class in recent years.

**Extension Volunteers Worth Nearly Half Million Dollars!**

In 2015, Extension benefited from an estimated 1,428 volunteers who helped extend the reach of Extension’s programs, such as 4-H and Master Gardeners. The volunteers’ estimated 24,126 total hours of service are worth nearly $497,478 to our community!

**“Education and delivery of unbiased, fact-filled information is probably one of the greatest resources Extension has to offer. If we can take a young person, and motivate and inspire them to be a productive citizen, that’s probably one of the best investments we can make.”**

— Larry Hudkins, Lancaster County Commissioner and Vice-Chair of the Board of Commissioners