

# Horticulture, Landscape and Environmental Systems



hles.unl.edu

## Impact At-A-Glance



Nebraska Extension's Water Dogs educates Extension Master Gardener Volunteers (EMGV) and homeowners on turfgrass water needs, efficient irrigation, & soil management practices to keep lawns healthy and conserve water.

Mike Niday, Lancaster County EMGV, has participated in Water Dogs since 2021. He hosted a Neighbor-to-Neighbor program in 2022, bringing together residents in his homeowners association (HOA). After a year of following Water Dogs irrigation guidelines, the higher quality of Mike's turf, when compared to inefficiently irrigated nearby turf, was an obvious example showing improved lawns with less irrigation. In 2023, Mike continues to share his knowledge with neighbors and is encouraging his HOA to change their irrigation practices based on the success experienced with his own lawn.

*"We teach homeowners actual turf water needs and irrigation best practices. Many participants are surprised how simple changes make a big impact on lowering their water use and improving turf health!"*

*- Sarah Browning, Extension Educator*

# 75%

EMGVs noticed "a big difference" in their lawn health with fewer irrigations.

# 87%

EMGVs using the "set it and forget it" method, now irrigate manually and only when needed.

# 285

Homeowners engaged in Neighbor-to-Neighbor programs to learn proper irrigation practices.



**STRENGTHEN NEBRASKA AGRICULTURE & FOOD SYSTEMS**

**INSPIRE NEBRASKANS & THEIR COMMUNITIES**

**ENHANCE THE HEALTH & WELLBEING OF ALL NEBRASKANS**

# Horticulture, Landscape and Environmental Systems



**Inspire Nebraskans & Their Communities** Extension professionals work shoulder-to-shoulder with Nebraskans to protect natural resources, improve and manage landscapes, address bug-related issues, and grow safe, nutritious food. Through Extension experts and resources, Nebraskans have what they need to make well-informed decisions related to their surroundings, their health, their families, and their hometowns. Nebraska Extension is an integral partner in helping Nebraska live up to its well-earned reputation as “The Good Life.”

**\$885,000**

Estimated public value thanks to 30,000 hours volunteered by EMGVs across Nebraska.

- Directly reached over 60,000 Nebraskans through learner-centric programs while broadening impact by way of digital and print articles, radio features, TV appearances, and other avenues across local, national, and international media platforms.
- As of 2023, there are 221 pollinator habitats in 25 Nebraska counties certified through the Nebraska Pollinator Habitat Certification program. Forty habitats were certified this year, which is an increase of 74% from 2022.
- Native American youth in the UNL Indigenous Youth Food Sovereignty Program nourished their indigenous identities while raising an estimated 300 pounds of produce on East Campus for their families and communities.
- 1,570 4-H Youth participated in the Special Garden 4-H Project to grow something new and exciting.



Funded by an \$85K CDC grant, UNL and Nebraska Extension worked with local health departments, schools, camps, nature centers, and citizen scientists to deliver in-person and virtual programs, and multilingual tick safety materials to reduce risks of tick-transmitted disease in Nebraskans.



**4,750**

Learners of all ages were directly reached through face-to-face programming on tick safety.