



Master Gardener sharing how she used an irrigation audit and screwdriver to reduce frequency of lawn watering during a “Neighbor to Neighbor” Water Dogs workshop in Columbus

Automatic lawn irrigation systems are often “set it and forget it” resulting in overwatering and compacted soils. “Water Dogs” began in 2021 with 24 Extension Master Gardener volunteers trained in efficient turf irrigation and soil management (5 in Platte County). The volunteers and Extension Educators now teach these practices via Zoom and at “Neighbor to Neighbor” workshops. This year, 18 workshops were held statewide reaching 258 people (3 in Platte County reaching 32); and three on-line classes were attended by 108 people. On evaluations, many state they no longer “set it and forget it.”

Programs At-A-Glance

- 1,279 youth from over 70 classrooms in 15 elementary schools sparked their interest in STEM careers by participating in the I.N.S.A.N.E. Science STEM Field Day in Columbus. One tea
- Cher stated, “STEM Field Day was the best 4-H program she’s had her students participate in.” 29 community volunteers assisted, and 13 local businesses sponsored the program.

306

stakeholders were certified at pesticide, chemigation, and nitrogen management training.

STRENGTHEN NEBRASKA AGRICULTURE & FOOD SYSTEMS

35

women from 7 nationalities are part of a Columbus empowerment, leadership and health group.

INSPIRE NEBRASKANS & THEIR COMMUNITIES

6

Platte County growers participated in the On-Farm Research program for cover crops and efficient irrigation.

ENHANCE THE HEALTH & WELLBEING OF ALL NEBRASKANS

