Food Access Impact Report

Nebraska’s Challenges

- Food insecurity in Nebraska has risen from 14% to 14.7% in the last year, almost meeting the national average.
- Nebraska-modified Nutrition Environment Measures Survey for Stores found many food retailers providing less than 3 out of 5 healthy food groups.
- 1 in 8 people in Nebraska struggle with hunger, including 1 in 6 children.

Our Solution

The Nutrition Education Program (NEP), a collaboration of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program-Education and The Expanded Food & Nutrition Program, and Nebraska Extension improve access to affordable, nutritious and safe food. We work with communities, consumers, producers and partners to help Nebraskans find, afford, choose and use healthful foods. These practices boost rural economies, meet increased consumer demand and bolster local agriculture.

Reach

NEP offers food access programming across the state.

Impact

- More than 18,000 pounds of fresh fruits and vegetables valued over $23,000 was donated to 24 emergency food access sites across the state.
- Team members participated in community councils, coalitions, and gardens impacting over 45,000 Nebraskans.
- 10 retailers participated in the Choose Healthy Here healthy food retail program. Four of those stores reached adequate access to healthy food, and three stores increased access to healthy foods by at least one food group.
Nebraska Extension’s partnership with the Nebraska Department of Agriculture, the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services, CHI Health, Children’s Hospital and Medical Center, and the Silk Purse Foundation has provided the opportunity for SNAP participants to double their dollars on fresh produce spending.

This year, Nebraska Double Up Food Bucks was piloted in three farmers markets and one grocery store in Lincoln. When Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program participants shopped these locations, for every dollar they spent on fresh produce they received a dollar in NE Double Up, up to $20 per day, to spend on additional fresh produce.

The Lincoln markets gained over 100 new customers, who spent an average of $42 on fresh produce each visit. Sales at the markets increased anywhere from 27-60%, and customer buying power increased anywhere from 36-47%.

“This program has been so helpful! I was out of work due to health issues and eating nourishing food is a large part of how I recovered.”

- Nebraska Double Up Shopper

Thanks to the hard work from Nutrition Education Program Staff, Extension staff, Nebraska Extension Master Gardeners, and Statewide partners, Nebraska has made great strides in increasing access to nutritious foods for those who need it most. The CHOW program, funded through SNAP-Ed, has brought these partners together to make these impacts possible.

Produce donated from community gardens has reached over 31,000 individuals in five Nebraska Counties.

“The amount of produce donated has astounded everyone working on the project.”

- Hall County Extension

Visit [nep.unl.edu](http://nep.unl.edu) for more information.