



In Nebraska, 1 in 3 age eligible youth across all 93 counties are enrolled in 4-H, for a total enrollment reaching approximately 140,000 youth. This report will provide a glimpse into the growth and impact the Nebraska 4-H program has had on our youth participants. In 2011, a mixed methods study was conducted with approximately 1,200 youth from across Nebraska contributing their responses.

4-H in Nebraska

- 1 in 3 age-eligible youth in all 93 counties in Nebraska are 4-Her's.
- Nearly 70,000 youth participated in school enrichment experiences.
- Over 42,000 Nebraska youth were members of a 4-H club.
- Nearly 10,000 youth and adults participated in 4-H camping programs.
- 11,000 volunteers share their time and resources with Nebraska 4-H.

FIVE YEAR REVIEW
2007-2011

THE NEBRASKA 4-H REVOLUTION

Youth Development Outcome Report

4-H in Nebraska

The mission of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Extension 4-H is to empower youth to reach their full potential working and learning in partnerships with caring adults. The Nebraska 4-H Strategic Plan, which was produced from a collaboration of feedback from our stakeholders, provided a strong and promising direction for 4-H in Nebraska. 2011 marks the 5th and final year of the current 4-H strategic plan. The outcome areas for the 2007-2011 Strategic Plan included Life Skill Development, Healthy Living, Career Development, and 4-H Science; in 2010, the focus strategically shifted to focus on 4-H Science and Career Development. In addition, 4-H has always been focused in supporting the post-secondary aspirations of young people.

2011 FINDINGS OVERVIEW

As a result of participating in their 4-H program or project in:

4-H Science

- 91% think a career in 4-H Science would be exciting.
- 80% understand how 4-H Science relates to their 4-H program or project.
- 81% I think 4-H Science will be important in their future job.
- 83% apply 4-H Science to their 4-H program or project.
- 82% get to do hands on 4-H Science related activities in their 4-H program or project.
- 73% could explain to others how they use 4-H Science in their 4-H program or project.
- 68% are exploring a career in a 4-H Science related field.
- 72% have or will talk to someone who works in a 4-H Science career they are interested in.

Career Development

- 87% know a college major related to their 4-H program or project.
- 79% might choose a college major related to their 4-H program or project.
- 88% can think of ways my 4-H program or project could be a business.
- 97% are learning skills through 4-H that they could use in a future job.
- 93% know careers that are related to their 4-H program or project.
- 63% are exploring a career related to my 4-H program or project.
- 72% have talked to someone in a career related to their 4-H program or project.

Post-Secondary Education

- 82% of youth are or will attend a college or University in Nebraska.
- 33% of youth are or will attend the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.
- 57% of youth say 4-H staff or volunteers talked to them about their college decisions.
- 48% say their 4-H project area impacted their college decision.
- 74% of youth pursuing post-secondary education were enrolled in 4-H for 10-12 years.
- 93% of youth pursuing post-secondary education were a member of a 4-H Club.
- 97% of youth pursuing post-secondary education participated at the county fair.

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Extension is a Division of the Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln cooperating with the Counties and the United States Department of Agriculture.

The 4-H Youth Development program abides with the nondiscrimination policies of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and the United States Department of Agriculture.

4-H Science



With an increased need for scientists across the nation, a primary interest of Nebraska 4-H is to provide opportunities for youth to pursue science, engineering, technology, and applied math. Nebraska 4-H is achieving this by providing hands on learning experiences that encourage the development of science skills

and abilities leading to an increase in science literacy amongst our 4-Her's. 4-H Science refers to programming that encompasses science, engineering, technology, or applied math skills and concepts.

Nebraska 4-H youth responded positively in regards to their 4-H Science interest over the past five years, with youth respondents thinking a career in science, engineering, technology, or applied math would be exciting; 50% in 2007 to 91% in 2011. Also promising is the percentage of youth who have or will talk to someone who works in the science, engineering, technology, and applied math career they are interested in; 62% in 2007 to 72% in 2011. When compared to a national sample of 4-H youth and all youth, youth in Nebraska report more positive attitudes related to science.

Nebraska 4-H, National 4-H, and NAEP Eighth-Grade Attitudes Toward Science

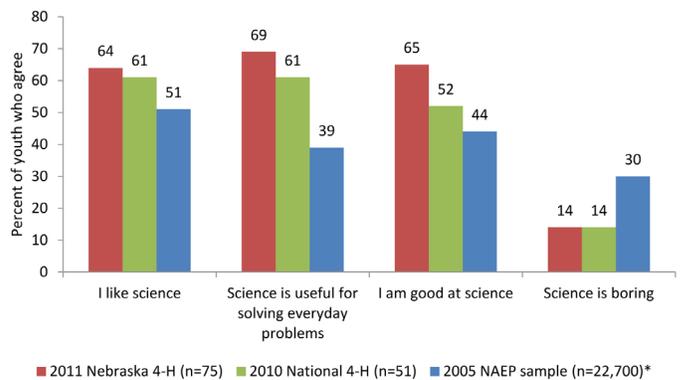


Exhibit reads: Sixty-four percent of eighth-grade Nebraska 4-H participants agreed that they like science, compared to 61 percent of National 4-H youth and 51 percent of 2005 NAEP sample eighth-graders.

Note: Nebraska 4-H youth 12-19 years of age and National youth 13-14 years of age were classified as eighth-graders for this analysis.

* The National Assessment of Education Progress (NAEP) Science assessment is administered nationally to represent 8th grade students to measure their interests in science.

4-H Career Development

Preparing Nebraska's youth to pursue meaningful career choices continues to be a top priority of Nebraska 4-H. The 2007-2011 Nebraska 4-H Strategic Plan sought to teach our youth the value of opportunity and connectivity, and to develop the skills necessary for acting on those opportunities. Through various 4-H programs, projects, and activities, youth were able to discover and pursue their interests as they relate to future career possibilities.

Over the last five years, the efforts of Nebraska 4-H have been evidenced by the significant increase in percentage of youth respondents who know a college major related to their 4-H program or project, with an increase from 35% in 2009 to 87% in 2011. This strong increase is a result of Nebraska 4-H staff and volunteers pro-

viding opportunities for youth to talk with a person in a career related to their 4-H program or project (58% in 2010 to 72% in 2011). In addition, there has been an increase in the percentage of youth who recognize they are learning skills through 4-H that they could use in a future job; 92% in 2008 to 97% in 2011.

These are all indicators that in the future, the youth of Nebraska 4-H will be better prepared to achieve economic stability and be successful contributors to their communities.



4-H Post-Secondary Education



The projects offered through 4-H often serve as a catalyst in assisting youth discover and make decisions about their post-secondary education. Providing Nebraska youth opportunities to develop the knowledge and skills required to adequately pursue post-secondary education choices has and will continue to be a top priority of the organization. Annually 4-H seeks to document the post-secondary plans of graduating youth. Consistently, more

than 95% report plans to pursue higher education; approximately one-third choosing UNL.

"4-H helped me learn that I love working with children and that I am competent when speaking in front of groups. I decided to mold these two areas into my plans for the future, as I study elementary education."

"4-H helped me discover a love of photography and helped me decide that I want my career to be in the photography field. I am now attending college pursuing a degree in Business Management with a minor in Photography with the hopes of opening my own studio."