

UNL Extension

Public Value Statements



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Healthy Families and Communities Action Plan

Contact

Public Value Statement:

When you support the ServSafe program, participants representing restaurants and other food service establishments will adopt safe food handling practices which lead to safe food served which will benefit other community members by reducing food borne illness among patrons and associated health care costs.

Julie Albrecht

Public Value Statement:

When you support the Small Steps to Health and Wealth program, participating individuals will learn to take care of their financial and health needs which will lead to extended independence which will benefit other community members by reducing reliance on shrinking government resources.

Ann Fenton

Public Value Statement:

When you support the Parents Forever program, participating families implement positive parenting skills, which leads to a more stable environment and less risky behavior on the part of children. This benefits other community members by saving \$200 per day for each child who stays away from risky behaviors.

Ruth Vonderohe

Additional Information:

UNL Extension staff provided 2,738 parents with opportunities to learn positive parenting skills. After parents completed the Parents Forever class nearly 10,000 children now have a better chance to survive and thrive challenges of today's society.

Public Value Statement:

When you support the food literacy program, participants will prepare more food from basic ingredients and buy less prepackaged foods. This leads to the consumption of fewer calories which increases health and decreases obesity. This benefits the entire community through lower healthcare costs and less stress on healthcare systems.

Georgia Jones

Public Value Statement:

When young people are involved in the Making Cents Of It they begin to save money and start thinking of entrepreneurship opportunities. By learning these behaviors early, youth are better prepared for adult life and more likely to be financially stable. This increases the economic vitality of communities.

Sandy Preston



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.

University of Nebraska–Lincoln Extension educational programs abide with the nondiscrimination policies of the University of Nebraska–Lincoln and the United States Department of Agriculture.

Public Value Statement:

When you support Child Care Provider Programs, day-care providers can provide safe, healthy, thriving environments for the children in their care. This benefits the entire community through a stronger workforce and children better prepared to learn.

Ruth Vonderohe

Additional Information:

Through UNL Extension educational efforts 5,800 child care providers provide a safe and thriving environment for 20,000 birth to 6 year old children.

Public Value Statement:

When you support Building Strong Families programming, families become stronger by strengthening their communication skills and their ability to deal with stress and crisis. These strong families create children ready to learn, productive employees, and adults who can contribute to communities.

Ruth Vonderohe

Public Value Statement:

Supporting the *RentWise* education program results in participants developing the skills to be more successful renters leading to more stability in the home, less frequent moves and increased understanding of the responsibilities to pay the rent and utility bills. This benefits the community as families have an opportunity to accumulate more resources and property managers have fewer vacant units due to evictions.

Shirley Niemeyer

Additional Information:

RentWise is a tenant education program that helps people know how to find and keep decent rental housing, and how to become more successful renters through education. Children who move more frequently do not do as well in school as those who are more stable. Evictions and frequent moves result in increased likelihood of loss of deposits for the units, utilities, etc. and less accumulation of "wealth." At risk households are more likely to become homeless. Frequent moves in and out of rental units and evictions result in vacant rental units until a new renter is fine and thus loss of income for the property owner or manager.

Research support:

Moving should be considered an additional risk factor in children's lives (Alexander, K., Entwisle, D., & Dauber, S., 1996. *Journal of Educational Research*, 90,3-12). Children who have changed schools frequently are more likely to be low achievers in reading and math. However, additional factors do enter into the lower achievement levels.

Public Value Statement:

When you support the extension’s water conservation program, homeowners, businesses and farmers reduce water usage reducing demand on aging infrastructure and water resources, benefiting other community members by providing water when needed without additional costs.

Public Value Statement:

When you support environmental horticulture program, participants will practice environmentally-friendly landscape principles, which leads to reduced pesticide, water and labor inputs as well as increased plant diversity which will benefit other community members by higher water and soil quality, reduced chemical drift and saving of public monies.

Elizabeth Killinger
Kathleen Cue

Public Value Statement:

When you support the private drinking water and wastewater programs, participants design, install and maintain systems properly; improving water quality, reducing water-related disease, and maintaining property values; which benefits the greater community and state by maintaining the state’s most valuable resource (water), reducing healthcare costs, and contribute to community economic vitality.

Sharon Skipton

Additional Information:

This educational program reached 2,814 constituents with educational programs at Ashland, Grand Island, Lincoln, Mead, Newman Grove, Prague, and Scottsbluff over the past year. Numerous additional constituents throughout the state were assisted through web, telephone, and e-mail interaction.

Public Value Statement:

When you support the community Integrated Pest Management (IPM) program, participants will increase the use of IPM, increase use of PPE (personal protective equipment), and read the label contributing to correct pesticide application practices, which leads to reduced use of pesticides, decreased pesticide exposure, and increased IPM practices. This will benefit the community by reducing cost to consumers, increasing health and safety, and protecting the environment and non-targets.

Erin Bauer

Public Value Statement:

When you support the Master-Naturalist program, participants will implement biodiversity and eco-activities on land which leads to eco-tourism in the state for wildlife viewing, hunting and recreation. This benefits other community members by increasing the state’s tourism and entrepreneurial opportunities and increase the dollars spent in the state from outside source.

Public Value Statement:

When you support the Healthy Home program, participants will implement practices that improve indoor air quality and reduce resident health risk, which leads to healthier homes reduced incidents of illness and home maintenance costs, benefitting other community members by decreasing health care costs.

Public Value Statement:

The Home Energy and Sustainability Education program participants adopt energy efficient products and strategies that reduce their energy use leading to wise use of natural resources and lowering or stabilizing their household energy costs. This benefits other community members by reducing contributions to green house gases, lowering the demand for oil imports, and extending the availability of non-renewable resources.

Shirley Niemeyer

Public Value Statement:

The manure management program helps animal producers minimize the air and water quality risks of livestock manure and utilize manure as an asset that helps produce food more sustainably while maintaining or improving the environment.

FP& NR Action Team

Additional Information:

Manure has environmental benefits if properly recycled. It improves soil quality which reduces erosion and enhances crop yield. It also reduces one of largest energy costs of farming since fertilizer production is very energy intensive. Our educational programs, implemented with NE Department of Environmental Quality and USDA, targets implementation of nutrient management plans designed to achieve this benefit while minimizing the risks. These programs represent the only educational opportunity in Nebraska for animal producers on this topic.

Public Value Statement:

When you support the Irrigation Water Conservation Programs, participating agricultural producers will use less irrigation water to grow crops which leads to them saving money and staying within irrigation allocations which will benefit the regional economy and enhance future availability of high-quality water for irrigated agriculture, wildlife, endangered species, hydroelectric plants, municipalities, and other states like Kansas.

Simon van Donk

Additional Information:

This public value statement addresses several irrigation water conservation educational efforts in the Republican Basin, Central Platte River region and northeast Nebraska (see public value statements by Kranz, Melvin, and Zoubek). We are especially proud of the fact that our programs have demonstrated producers ability to grow crops using significantly less irrigation water.

Public Value Statement:

UNL Extension programs help farmers and ranchers effectively utilize bio-fuel co-products for efficient livestock production, supporting Nebraska's vital agricultural economy.

Aaron Berger

Public Value Statement:

UNL Extension's wind energy programs assist landowners understand wind development helping them communicate with their community about wind power and its environmental tax and energy benefits to them, their community and Nebraska.

John Hay

Public Value Statement:

UNL Extension's wind energy program helps landowners understand wind development contracts so they can maximize their economic benefits which benefits rural communities by participation in the economic and tax base growth associated with wind development in Nebraska.

John Hay

Additional Information:

This educational program reached 600+ Nebraska landowners and 40+ Extension Educators from 9 states with educational programs at Kimball, Valentine, Norfolk, Syracuse, Wilber, Bluehill, Beatrice, and online (web seminars) over the past year. We are especially proud of the programs ability to provide nonbiased information to landowners in a timely manner through multiple delivery approaches.

Public Value Statement:

UNL Extension's distillers grains (DGs) storage and feeding program reduces feeding costs for both small and large cattle producers which leads to improved producer profitability and greater local use of DGs. This, in turn, benefits other community members by improving both the livestock and ethanol industries profitability and Nebraska's economic strength.

John Hay

Public Value Statement:

By supporting the Nebraska No-Till Conference and helping participants successfully adopt no-till farming practices, all of Nebraska benefits from a stronger agricultural economy, cleaner water, and sustainable water supplies. No-till practices result in greater profitability, reduced soil erosion and reduced reliance on irrigation water supplies.

Chuck Burr

Additional Information:

This educational program reached 240 producers, consultants, or other constituents representing 272,325 acres with educational programs at Holdrege over the past year. We are especially proud of the program's value as estimated by the participants at \$2,920,000 resulting from changes in practice they plan to make

Public Value Statement:

Public funding helps support the Nebraska Ranch Practicum and the High Plains Ranch Practicum that assists participants in developing ranch management skills. This knowledge leads to improved profitability and sustainability of their operations. Nebraskan's benefit by keeping ranch families in rural communities and improved natural resource stewardship.

Brent Plugge and
Aaron Berger

Additional Information:

The Practicum has been held at the West Central Research and Extension Center in North Platte, the Gudmundsen Sandhills lab near Whitman and the Panhandle Research and Extension Center at Scottsbluff. The Practicum has reached 339 producers, consultants or other constituents since 1999, representing management of 220,000 beef cattle and 2.8 million acres of land. We are especially proud of the program's curriculum which is derived from the systems based research conducted at the University of Nebraska and impact on the ability of participants to critically evaluate management alternatives and an average improvement in profitability of over \$18,000 per operation.

Public Value Statement:

Public funding supports the Organic Research which helps participants make the transition from conventional to organic production and implement science based organic production practices. This research leads to science based practices on organic farms and benefits Nebraska as a whole by strengthening organic farms, new opportunities for entrepreneurial rural business, and greater diversity in Nebraska agriculture.

Charles Shapiro and
Elizabeth Sarno

Additional Information:

This educational program reached 700 farmers, consumers, consultants, or other constituents representing 48,259 acres and 1000 livestock (130 certified organic farmers), with educational programs at Agricultural Research and Development Center, Haskell Agricultural Laboratory, High Plains Agricultural Laboratory and Western Community College, and South Central Agricultural Laboratory over the past year. We are especially proud that the organic program provides much needed science-based support and contact to an underserved, but growing segment of the Nebraska population.

Public Value Statement:

Public funding supports on-farm research that helps growers and consultants learn how to objectively evaluate products and management practices leading to improved risk management, enhanced agricultural profitability and environmental sustainability. This benefits Nebraska as a whole by improving farm businesses and rural community viability, protecting water quality, and assuring plentiful grain production for food, feed and fuel demand.

Dave Varner

Additional Information:

This educational program reaches 50 growers and 15 crop consultants directly in Adams, Butler, Cass, Clay, Dodge, Fillmore, Hamilton, Lancaster, Saunders, Scotts Bluff, Washington, York counties while indirectly impacting more than 1,000 growers statewide. We are especially proud of being recognized by the North Central Soil Fertility Research and Extension group as one of the leading on-farm research programs in the Midwest.

Public Value Statement:

Public funding supports the Soybean Management Field Days that helps participants to use research based information in making sound production and marketing decisions which leads to researched based practices resulting in greater production efficiencies, increased profitability, and improved soil and water resources. This benefits Nebraska as a whole by securing more farmers in rural communities with disposable income and improving environmental quality.

Keith Glewen

Additional Information:

This educational program reached 443 Soybean Growers representing 528,934 row crop acres with educational programs at farm operations near Seward, Wakefield, Arlington and Bruning, Nebraska over the past year. We are especially proud of the program's ability to take University based research results and recommendations to communities across Nebraska, and the positive response we have received from farm operators and agribusiness professionals. The economic impact in 2008 alone was 6.7 million dollars

Public Value Statement:

Public funding supports the Crop Management & Diagnostic Clinics which targets crop consultants with in-field research based training to enhance crop management skills. This program leads to greater production efficiencies, increased profitability, and enhanced soil and water resources. Nebraska benefits as a whole by securing more farmers in rural communities with disposable income, enhancing the quality of Nebraska natural resources, and multiplying the value of agricultural research investments.

Keith Glewen

Additional Information:

This educational program reached 527 crop production industry professionals and growers representing 24% of Nebraska's row crop production or 3.7 million acres with educational programs at Agricultural Research & Development Center near Mead over the past year. We are especially proud of the program's ability to deliver a training curriculum which provides industry professionals from 63 Nebraska counties and 11 states an educational experience relevant to production agriculture's needs. The economic impact in 2008 alone was 30.9 million dollars.

Public Value Statement:

Public funding supports the Nebraska Agricultural Water Management Demonstration Network which helps participants to improve irrigation management and efficiency which in turn reduces irrigation water application, lowers consumptive water use and the associated energy costs benefitting Nebraska by contributing to sustainable use of the Ogallala aquifer.

Gary Zoubek

Additional Information:

A survey of participants of the on-farm demonstration program suggests a savings of approximately 2.6 inches of water per acre on corn and 2.1 inches of water savings per acre for soybeans. Using those figures, estimated energy saving for all the participants would be in excess of five million dollars. *For every acre-inch of water not pumped, this benefits Nebraska as a whole by an energy savings of approximately 3.3 gallons of diesel fuel energy and 72 pounds of reduced carbon dioxide emissions. A reduction of 2 acre inches of water pumped on all Nebraska irrigated acres would produce 400 billion gallons of reduced water pumped, 60 million gallons of diesel fuel equivalent savings, and an equivalent of 540,000 tons of reduced carbon dioxide emissions each year.*

Public Value Statement:

Public funding supports the Annie's Project program that helps spouses be better business partners which leads to women better responding to challenges of farming and ranching and benefits Nebraskans as a whole by keeping more farmers and ranchers in rural communities.

Karen DeBoer

Additional Information:

This educational program reached 93 women representing 92,200 acres with educational programs at Crawford, Hay Springs, Sidney, Chadron/Gordon, and Burt and Antelope Counties over the past year. We are especially proud of the program's educational curriculum which is designed to help women find answers, strength and friendship while dealing with the challenges of being involved in farming and ranching.

Public Value Statement:

Public funding supports the 2008 Irrigation and Energy Conservation Training that helps participants with proven irrigation best-management practices which leads to water savings, reduced input costs, and reduced nitrogen leaching to groundwater. Nebraska benefits from improved future water availability for irrigated agriculture and other water users, a higher quality ground water resource, and economically viable agricultural systems.

Bill Kranz

Additional Information:

This educational program reached 382 irrigators representing 780,000 acres of irrigated cropland with educational programs at Clay Center, Holdrege, Ogallala and Neligh and UNL's South Central Field Lab near Clay Center over the past year representing 22 Nebraska Legislative District's and 54 counties. We are especially proud of the participant's estimate of \$9.6 million reduction in costs for the practices they plan to implement and the partnership with the Nebraska Corn Board and the Nebraska Corn Growers Association in the delivery of this program.

Public Value Statement:

Public funding supports the Crop Production Clinics helping participants implement integrated pest management principles, best practices for irrigation and fertilizer management, and research based crop production concepts. This leads to safe and sustainable use of pesticides, more profitable agricultural enterprises, and less use of water for irrigation, which benefits Nebraska as a whole by improving the competitiveness of Nebraska agriculture and contributing to the quality and quantity of our water resources for all water users.

Mark Bernards

Additional Information:

This 2009 educational program reached 1,331 farmers and agricultural professionals representing 87 million acres of crop land with educational programs at Norfolk, Fremont, Beatrice, York, Hastings, Kearney, North Platte, and Gering. We are especially proud of the program's participants reported that the clinics would contribute on average \$4 per acre on the land they manage or influence from planned changes in practice representing a potential savings of \$350,000,000

Public Value Statement:

Public funding supports the Crop Water Use Efficiency Field Tour Series and Demonstration Project which helps participants to implement advanced irrigation scheduling techniques and strategies for optimizing water use under current water supply constraints. This program benefits Nebraska as a whole by maintaining the economic viability of the agriculture in the Republican River Basin and contributing to Nebraska obligations with Kansas on the Republican River.

Steve Melvin

Additional Information:

This educational program, now starting its ninth year, reached 410 irrigators and agricultural professionals in 2008 with educational programs at 1 sites near Alma, Gothenburg, Axtell, Edison, Loomis, Ainsworth, Imperial, Benkelman, Upland, and Curtis. We are especially proud of the program's reported impact by the 160 producers that were surveyed. The average reported value of the knowledge gained by the producers completing the survey was \$22,215 per operation or overall total of \$3.5 million per year. The reported potential water savings of 2.2 acre-inches/acre by the farmers would represent a 15-20 percent savings from the typical irrigation usage and would be more than 31,300 acre-feet/year.

Public Value Statement:

The Nebraska EDGE programs helps individuals better manage their businesses which translates to added jobs, better investments and more robust rural economies.

Barbara Schmidt

Public Value Statement:

When you support the Inventors, Investors and Entrepreneurs (12E) Club, participants will start and grow businesses, ideas and relationships, which leads to increased revenue and idea generation and new professional networks. This benefits other community members by creating jobs, providing goods and services and generating additional income and tax revenue.

Barbara Schmidt

Public Value Statement:

Local leadership development programs participants increase their level of community involvement, which leads to a variety of actions that address community issues. This empowers communities to thrive and increase their capacity to deal with change.

Barbara Schmidt

Additional information:

Research models from agricultural economics extension specialists from around the country support the need for leadership development as the foundation for community and economic development. Regional research sponsored by USDA/CSREES in which UNL extension specialist Dr. Shirley Niemeyer participated, indicated that social capital was the most powerful indicator of community vitality. Examples of what UNL Extension leadership development program participants have done in economic development are an inter-local agreement between city, county, chamber and economic development to create an alliance and secure funding for a county wide economic development director, development of a web site to market their community, and securing lodging tax funds for a county to use for tourism development.

Public Value Statement:

When you support the Comercio Electronico program, participants will expand markets through e-commerce leading to more profitable businesses. This benefits the community by more business diversity and greater opportunities for businesses in rural communities.

Alan Baquet

Public Value Statement:

Rural participants in the programs provided through the Bit Mobile, incorporate electronic technology into their businesses leading to greater efficiency and reduced costs, which will benefit other community members by sustaining local businesses.

Vicky Jones

Public Value Statement:

When you support the e-gov programs, county employees will increase their skills using technology in county offices, which leads to more efficient delivery of government services, benefiting other community members by reducing the amount of time required to conduct business with county offices.

Barb Schmidt

Public Value Statement:

When you support the Red Carpet Service program, rural community residents learn to capitalize on tourism development opportunities and consider how tourism development can become part of their community economic development plan. This provides revenue growth and profit for individual businesses and the community.

Barb Schmidt

Additional Information:

Each dollar spent by tourists in Nebraska is re-circulated in the local economy to generate income and support additional businesses. Workers within the state spend dollars that come from tourists on things like housing, food, education, entertainment and more. Since tourist dollars come from outside the community, they add extra value to the overall economic activity of the area. These are not the same dollars recirculating from resident to resident, these are new dollars so the overall economic impact of one dollar spent by a tourist is actually \$2.70.

Public Value Statement:

When you support Extension natural resource based tourism development programs, participants learn skills to develop value added agricultural entrepreneurial businesses and public programs such as visitor centers. These programs enhance sustainable economic development opportunities for individuals and communities by bringing outside tourism dollars to the community.

Barb Schmidt

Public Value Statement:

When you support the Investors, Investors and Entrepreneurs (I2E) Club, participants will start and grow businesses, ideas and relationships which lead to increased revenue and idea generation and new professional networks. This benefits the community members by creating jobs, providing goods and services and generating additional income and tax revenue.

Barb Schmidt

4-H and Youth Development Action Plan

Contact

Public Value Statement:

Youth involved in 4-H will be more active and make healthier food choices leading to a lower risk for disease and illness which increases disposable income for families (reduction in medical/pharmacy expenses, fewer days missed from school/work, etc) and eventually leads to lower long term medical costs for families and communities.

Jill Walahoski

Public Value Statement:

Youth participating in 4-H are more likely to enroll in higher education and explore career and entrepreneurship opportunities which result in increased wage earners that contribute to the economic stability of their communities. Those 4-H'ers who attend UNL also contribute to the state by their enrollment dollars.

Jill Walahoski

Public Value Statement:

Youth participating in 4-H participate in service projects and leadership roles where they develop quality decision making, public speaking and other professional skills that help them positively contribute to communities as responsible citizens and willing public servants.

Jill Walahoski

Public Value Statement:

Youth involved in 4-H apply science engineering and technology (SET) to their 4-H projects, develop related workforce preparedness skills and pursue careers in SET resulting in a workforce that will enable businesses to locate in Nebraska and result in community viability.

Jill Walahoski