



Know how. Know now.

CROP/PLANT SCIENCE – YOUTH EDUCATION

Meeting the Challenge

- With the global population expected to reach 9 billion people by 2050, new and innovative agricultural production practices must be achieved ensuring an adequate food supply.
- Today's youth adapt rapidly to the ever-changing world, crave change and challenge, and are global in perspective and constantly creating things. These attributes can move agricultural production forward if they are actively engaged.



In 2012, over 250 youth participated in a crop/plant science related educational program. Nearly 100 agricultural education instructors participated in soil science educational in-services.

- The Innovative Youth Corn Challenge offered youth the opportunity to work closely with an agronomic professional while creating their own on-farm research or demonstration plots. 2012 was the pilot year in which eleven youth/six teams successfully harvested their challenge plots.
- Over 1,600 packets of firecracker sunflower seeds were distributed to youth in over 60 counties across Nebraska as part of the special garden project.
- A Crop Science focused Big Red Camp was implemented with 7 youth participating. One youth said, "It let me see all of what an agronomy career is made up of."
- Horticulture contest participants completed evaluations (n=33)
 resulted in the following: 88% are aware of a related career and 76%
 could think of ways this area could be a business.
- In collaboration with NRCS, the Dept. of Education, a soil quality testing curriculum is available on-line at: HTTP://CROPWATCH.UNL.EDU/WEB/CROPWATCH-YOUTH/SOILS



Public Value

In areas of rural Nebraska where populations continue to decline these projects work to:

- Result in more youth returning to agricultural related careers and aware of the numerous career opportunities in agriculture.
- The agricultural industry will successfully feed the growing population as more youth are engaged in agricultural researchoriented careers.
- Grow the perspective pool of future gardeners by increasing knowledge and skills of proper production practices and entrepreneurship opportunities.

For More Information

Contact your local UNL Extension office, http://www.extension.unl.edu, Brandy VanDeWalle, Extension Educator, brandy.vandewalle@unl.edu for this extension initiative.



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.