

# ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH UPDATES





# Recreational Pool Program Updates

- Pursuing a contract with NE Dept. of Environment and Energy (NDEE) since early 2024 to obtain local authority to conduct pool inspections in public facilities
- Staff trained to obtain Pool Operator license needed to perform inspections
- Visit to NDEE state office in late August resulted in confirmation of contract in-progress with new Environmental Safety supervisor
- 1 co-inspection with current sanitarian already conducted, several more to come before full transition of duties
- TRPHD has a draft interlocal agreement in hand



# Retail Food Program: Relevancy to Public Health

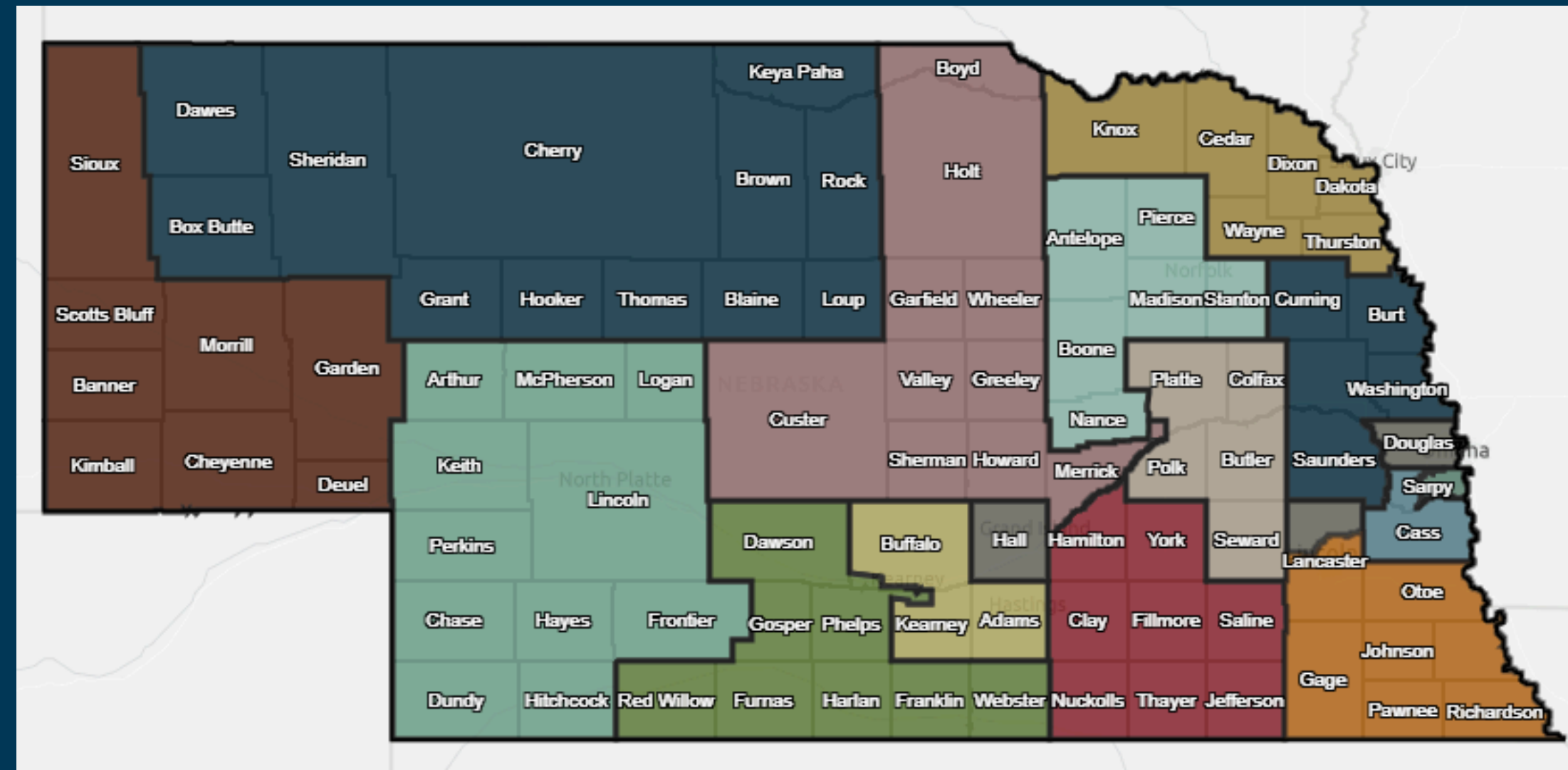


**TRPHD Goal:** Provide essential services of public health.

**Retail Food Program** fulfills 7 of 10 of those services.

# State-Level Framework

- Food safety regulation established by Nebraska Pure Food Act
  - NE Food Code derived from FDA 2017 federal food code
  - Enforced by NE Dept. of Ag (NDA) inspectors
- 3 jurisdictions currently conduct inspections independent of NDA
  - Omaha, Lincoln, Grand Island
  - All 3 written into municipal code



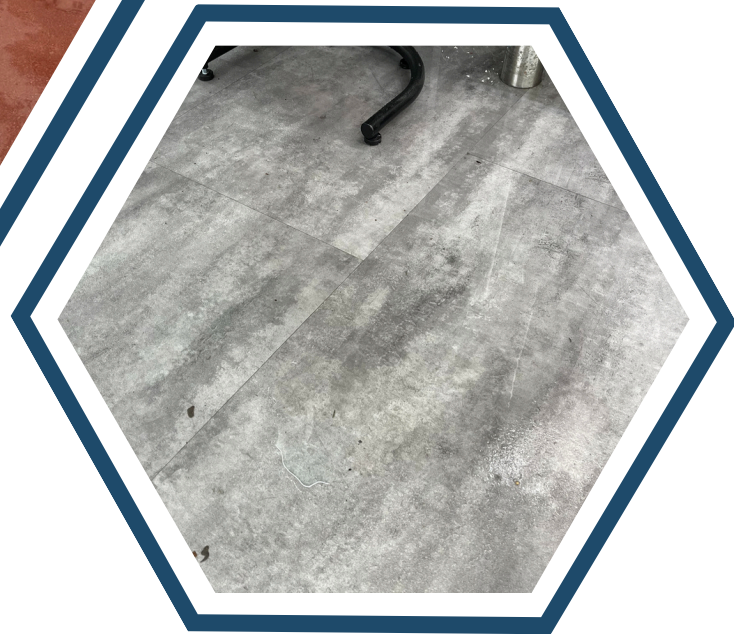
Colored areas= inspections performed by NDA

Grey areas= inspections performed by designated local agency





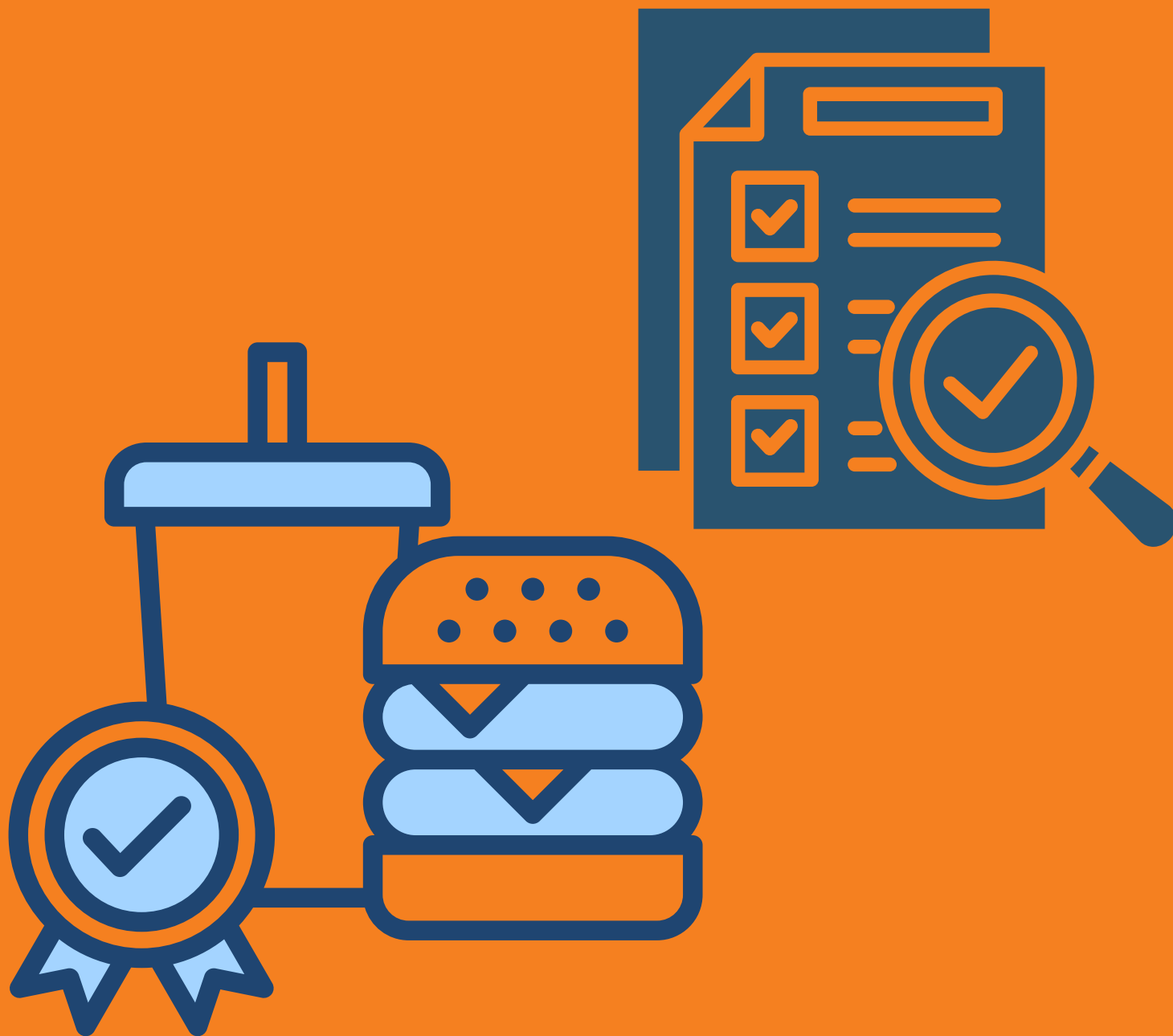
# 1. Preventing Foodborne Illness Outbreaks



- **Foodborne outbreaks account for 48 million illnesses, over 100,000 hospitalizations, and 3,000 deaths annually (CDC)**
- **TRPHD control will allow:**
  - **Timely inspections in response to reported illness and complaints**
  - **Efficient and transparent health communications**
  - **Partnerships and resource sharing during recalls and outbreaks**



## 2. Delays in State Inspections/Impacts on Business



- **Many businesses/citizens already believe TRPHD is the food inspection agency**
  - **EH staff using resources to redirect calls, contact NDA on behalf of citizens/businesses, forward complaints**
  - **NO food inspector assigned to Gosper, Phelps, Harlan, Franklin, and Dawson Counties since 2023**



# 3. Local Knowledge and EH Expertise

## TRPHD Env. Health Specialist

## NDA Inspector

Need 30 math/science credits for hire

No hard education requirement

Must obtain provisional or registered EHS status by 180 days

General food safety knowledge

36 months to obtain food safety certification (not specified)

Managed by TRPHD

Managed by NDA

Based in Kearney, local connections

Can be based anywhere in NE

- **TRPHD is known by community members**
  - **Consistency and trust with food inspector**
- **Educational differences**
  - **TRPHD can control requirements- ensure competency**

# Forward Thoughts

- Local capacity
- Improved local industry connections
- Improved outcomes lead to improved businesses





**THANK  
YOU**