

Extension requests support; vote daily in December

Written by Holyoke Enterprise

Golden Plains Area Extension has submitted a project at the Pepsi Refresher Project website in hopes of receiving funds for community gardens and Ag Fest.

The extension project is listed under the category "Education" under the funding amount of \$50,000 on the website located at <http://www.refresheverything.com>. The project title is "Feed, Inspire and Educate all ages through Extension in Eastern Colorado."

Extension is asking people to vote once a day, every day during the month of December. They need enough votes to be in the top 10 projects in the funding category.

People get 10 votes a day, but only one can go to support the extension's project.

Extension is asking for funding for two educational projects. The first is Ag Fest, which teaches the practical application of science and math behind agriculture to fifth and sixth graders. The fifth and sixth graders at multiple locations take a hands-on educational journey by visiting 10 stations during their day-long visit at each location.

A mix of 10 different agents and specialists teach a different concept at each station. Some of the concepts are: embryology, biodiesel, honey bees and dairy production.

Extension piloted Ag Fest in April and hopes to hold it again in 2011.

Extension is asking Pepsi to fund \$20,000 to this project to cover teaching materials, travel, pipe and drape.

The second project is the community garden effort throughout the Golden Plains area. Extension is educating people and families how to raise their own food. The garden helps supply the local food pantries. They have also started selling some of the produce raised.

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Holyoke's community garden is in its fourth year and a garden in Yuma is in its second. However, there are newer community gardens being established in Burlington, Akron and Julesburg which all need money to help purchase tools, sheds and cover other expenses. Extension is asking Pepsi to fund \$30,000 for the community garden effort.

The funding for the following items will be allocated to each garden as needed: tools and tool storage, other equipment, seeds and programming given by the horticulture associate.

Educating both children and communities about food production and raising their own food is a worthy project among the many worthy projects nationwide.

Vote by going to <http://www.refresheverything.com> Dec. 1-31. Sign in, click on "Education" and then click on the \$50,000 funding amount and the extension project is listed according to rank. The rank changes throughout the day. People can go to shuffle ideas and it will give choices such as "ideas near you" which will bring up the extension project quicker. People may vote more than once if they have more than one e-mail address.

For questions, contact Linda Langelo at 854-3616 in the Phillips County Extension Office or go to <http://goldenplains.colostate.edu> .