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CSU Extension Combines Agriculture and Science to Reach Youth

By Brooke Matthew, CSU 4-H Extension Agent, Otero & Crowley Counties

Eastern Colorado—Eastern Colorado rural communities are facing many of the same agricultural education challenges the entire nation currently suffers; many of our youth are two or three generations removed from production agriculture. Colorado State University Extension Agents teamed up with the Colorado Department of Agriculture to teach fifth and sixth graders the science found throughout all areas in agriculture. This day long program is called Ag Fest.

Ag Fest kicked off April 19 and was held in three locations: Brush, Seibert, and Lamar. Approximately 300 youth from 13 school districts went through 10 different agricultural stations using the Colorado Science Standards as a base. The interactive stations consisted of cattle's ruminant digestive system, egg development and incubation, wool and natural fiber production, agronomy, farm/tractor physics, honey bees, insect life cycles, bio-diesel production, the dairy industry, and good versus bad germs. Extension Agents used their expertise to bring a positive science message involved throughout agriculture production to students and teachers.

“Ag Fest is a great opportunity for Colorado teachers to tap the knowledge of our agricultural leaders,” said John Stulp, Commissioner of Agriculture.



Southeast Area *Extension*

County Extension Offices

Baca County

772 Colorado St.
Springfield, CO 81073
719-523-6971

Bent County

1499 Amb. Thompson Blvd.
Las Animas, CO 81054
719-456-0764

Cheyenne County

425 S. 7th W.
P. O. Box 395
Cheyenne Wells, CO 80810
719-767-5716

Crowley County

603 North Main St.
Courthouse Annex
Ordway, CO 81063
719-267-5243

Kiowa County

1305 Goff
P. O. Box 97
Eads, CO 81036
719-438-5321

Otero County

411 N. 10th
P. O. Box 190
Rocky Ford, CO 81067
719-254-7608

Prowers County

1001 S. Main
Lamar, CO 81052
719-336-7734

“There is often a disconnect between families and food production. The lessons learned during Ag Fest helped bridge the gap while teaching physics and mathematics in a fun environment.”

Colorado State University Extension Agents have already begun the 2011 Ag Fest planning process if you or your school would like more information please contact one of the following Extension Offices: Cheyenne County 719-767-5716, Crowley County 719-267-5243, Kit Carson 719-346-5571, Kiowa County 719-438-5321, Morgan 970-542-3540, Otero County 719-254-7608, Sedgwick 970-474-3479, Washington 970-345-2287, Yuma 970-332-4151

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