



**COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY
EXTENSION**

Colorado State University Extension Golden Plains Area Extension

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Special Needs Gardens

(Holyoke, Colo.)

Launch of the Holyoke Garden Location

Funding for a special needs fruit and vegetable garden has been approved at Holyoke High school. This garden will provide an afterschool activity for students enrolled in exceptional student education (ESE) programs. The program will promote food security within the community as well. The garden is modeled after successes in Siebert, CO and in Bowling Green, KY. General education students are invited to help the ESE students to earn volunteer hours as well.

The gardening program will launch with a distribution of starter plants to be grown independently over the summer. These plants will be germinated in the high school's greenhouse this spring. Over the summer planning for the site's location, raised bed construction and a schedule to grow fall crops will be finalized. On site management of the program will be a joint effort between high school faculty and CSU extension. ESE teacher Nancy Miles, FFA sponsor Shauna Strecker, and Principal Angela Powell will be the key personnel from HHS. Area Horticulture Agent Linda Langelo, Area Agronomy Agent Todd Ballard, and Logan county director Brian Kailey will be the active participants from CSU. Linda brings technical knowledge of vegetable production. Todd brings experience working with the special needs community. Brian brings a connection with local seed vendors.

Additional gardens are in the grant application phase for three more locations in Colorado. Special thanks to the sponsors who allowed for the launch of this garden. The Heginbotham Trust has provided financial support and Bomgaars Supply has provided seed.

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