

MONTHLY ACTIVITY REPORT

TO: Dolores County Commissioners

FROM: Daniel Fernandez, Director
Dolores County Extension

DATE: May 7, 2009

SUBJECT: April Activity Report

Cross County Effort:

Regular meetings were held with the El Pomar Foundation and the Montezuma Land Conservancy, the SBDC, Region 9 and Montezuma Water this past month. We continue to deal with a significant number of regional fruit tree questions on a daily basis. My weekly radio show on KSJD in Cortez continues, as did grant negotiations with the Department of Local Affairs with 2 grants.

The Fruit Tree Research and Demonstration Project planted the high density demonstration. 25 trees were planted 18 inches apart on one of our abandoned grape trellises. We had perfect planting conditions for bare root tree planting - a blinding snow storm!! Next up will be irrigation system startup, finish pruning the grapes and basic weed control. I again want to thank the Montezuma Master Gardeners for all of their very valuable help.

The Economic Development Corporation's (DCDC) Dick and Adelene Weber Business Park tenant, San Juan BioEnergy's plant is starting to operate fairly well. Planning is now in process for this seasons crop with several grower meetings held. We did meet with Senator Bennet's and with Congressman Salazar's staff about direct appropriations to help with the expansion of the bioenergy project. There was a heavy focus on our #1 unemployment ranking in the State.

DCDC continues to monitor the local economic development situation in the county with the possible expansion of our TV Channel in the Cortez market via the internet. This will give our businesses considerably more exposure. The new town sign on the East side of town has been installed but the Town is still struggling with the the rock sign on the west end of Town. But installation is still scheduled for later this spring.

We continue initial work 2 projects now; the funding and construction of a new Senior Citizens/Community Center in Dove Creek (which is still waiting for a deed transfer) is nearing a stall so we are trying to push the process forward, Youth Build project involving grant funded youth apprenticeship (the Feds should notify us in June). Our National DCTV 4-H Evening News Broadcast apparently will not happen. We can't afford it and the Alamosa Station had technical problems with our broadcast material.

We have almost completed the selling of our selling of TV sponsorships but this a moving at a very slow pace.

Our 4-H program is in process and enrollment has spiked back up from 12 to 18 members.

Office visitors and phone contacts were normal for the month. Moisture for the month was a little better at .70 inches with normal being 0.99 inches. For the year, we have had 1.44 inches which is 30% of normal.

CONTACTS

(ALL CONTACTS ARE LOGGED WITH
NAMES AND CONTACT PURPOSE)

PHONE	290
OFFICE VISITORS	194
AREA SITE VISITS	20
MEETINGS	15
MEETING PARTICIPANTS	256
WORKSHOPS	2
NEWSLETTERS/NEWSPAPER ARTICLES	12
SLIDE PRESENTATIONS & MISC.	0