

MONTHLY ACTIVITY REPORT

TO: Dolores County Commissioners

FROM: Daniel Fernandez, Director
Dolores County Extension

DATE: March 3, 2009

SUBJECT: February Activity Report

Cross County Effort:

Our pruning workshop series has started with the all day class in Moab, Utah. Additional work was conducted with the El Pomar Foundation and the Montezuma Land Conservancy this past month. We continue to deal with a significant number of regional fruit tree questions. My weekly radio show on KSJD in Cortez continues with my Friday time slot.

The Fruit Tree Research and Demonstration Project is anticipating a large crowd at our annual tree pruning workshop. As the weather has cleared and most of the snow is off the orchard, we are planning on getting a head start on all of our cultural practices. The new trees will be arriving in April for the High Density Planting.

The Economic Development Corporation's (DCDC) Dick and Adelene Weber Business Park tenant, San Juan BioEnergy(SJB), is still working on working the "bugs" out of the new plant. Work on this past growing seasons' statistics is still in process and we hope to have a finished product by the end of February. We have had a very difficult time getting grower participation in this process and may conduct just a random sample next year. We have had to tie up too many resources for minimal results on this project.

DCDC continues to monitor the local economic development situation in the county. The only Motel in town closed but we did see 3 new professional business (non-redundant) move into the area; an accountant, plumber and electrician. Dolores County has the highest unemployment rate in the state at 9.8%. The new sign on the East side of town should be installed in March. The Town will still use the rock sign on the west end of Town with installation still scheduled for this spring.

We continue initial work on 3 new projects; the funding and construction of a new Senior Citizens/Community Center in Dove Creek, Youth Build project involving grant funded youth apprenticeship and 8 home renovations in Dolores County and our National DCTV 4-H Evening News Broadcast-the initial reviews on our transmissions were very good.

Our selling of TV sponsorships is moving very slowly and I have to attribute this to our poor economic situation.

Our 4-H program has now started the 2009 projects. The DCTV 4-H Evening News Program continues to prepare for the new national transmission. We are upgrading equipment and concentrating on improving our studio broadcast. We will provide regular updates on our progress.

Office visitors and phone contacts were very heavy for the month. Moisture for the month was low again .38 inches with normal being 1.15 inches. For the year, we have had .71 inches which is 28% of normal.

CONTACTS

(ALL CONTACTS ARE LOGGED WITH
NAMES AND CONTACT PURPOSE)

PHONE	401
OFFICE VISITORS	249
AREA SITE VISITS	30
MEETINGS	13
MEETING PARTICIPANTS	451
WORKSHOPS	4
NEWSLETTERS/NEWSPAPER ARTICLES	12
SLIDE PRESENTATIONS & MISC.	2