

MONTHLY ACTIVITY REPORT

TO: Dolores County Commissioners

FROM: Daniel Fernandez, Director
Dolores County Extension

DATE: July 1, 2009

SUBJECT: June Activity Report

Cross County Effort:

Regular meetings were held with the Montezuma Land Conservancy, San Juan Bioenergy, Region 9 and Montezuma Water this past month. We continue to deal with a significant number of regional weed and fruit tree questions on a daily basis. My weekly radio show on KSJD in Cortez continues.

The Fruit Tree Research and Demonstration Project went through a series of chemical and hand fruit thinnings. We have set an exceptional crop throughout the orchard again and we are hoping to increase fruit size for the fall U-Pick. Again, a big thank you to the master gardeners and to our Dolores County student workers for all their help with thinning and grape vine training.

The Economic Development Corporation's (DCDC) Dick and Adelene Weber Business Park HAS A TOURIST ATTRACTION. The antique tractor and farm implement display that was in Monticello, Utah for years, is now at the Business Park. The display owner was looking for a change and the Commissioners passed the contact to Extension and Extension immediately started working with DCDC to secure the nearly 100 tractors and farm implements to Dolores County. By offering 1.5 acres free rent, weed control and financial assistance to move the equipment, most of the tractors are now on permanent display in the Park. On the employment front, we still after 3 months have the #1 unemployment ranking in the State at 14.9%.

DCDC continues to monitor the local economic development situation in the County. The expansion of our TV Channel in the Cortez market is looking more like a reality. The attempt to assume control of the vacated cable system was not successful. After extensive phone solicitations, it was apparent that the customer base was not sufficient to cover even basic expenses for an off-air system.

We continue initial work on 2 projects now; the funding and construction of a new Senior Citizens/Community Center in Dove Creek which we hope to possibly use Stimulus Money to get this moving. Also, the Youth Build project involving grant funded youth apprenticeship (the Feds should notify us shortly I hope). DCTV is going digital in mid July as will all of our 7 rebroadcast channels.

Of special note regarding Montezuma Water Company - after 17 years of significant issues with Summit Ridge Water District and after 18 months of intense negotiations of which I was a direct participant, both parties have come to terms with an operations agreement and eventual merger.

Our 4-H program is in process and all projects are doing well.

Office visitors and phone contacts were normal for the month. Moisture for the month was below normal at .36 inches with normal being 0.46 inches. For the year, we have had 3.14 inches which is 51% of normal.

CONTACTS	(ALL CONTACTS ARE LOGGED WITH NAMES AND CONTACT PURPOSE)
PHONE	390
OFFICE VISITORS	233
AREA SITE VISITS	26
MEETINGS	19
MEETING PARTICIPANTS	265
WORKSHOPS	2
NEWSLETTERS/NEWSPAPER ARTICLES	12
SLIDE PRESENTATIONS & MISC.	0