

MONTHLY ACTIVITY REPORT

TO: Dolores County Commissioners

FROM: Daniel Fernandez, Director
Dolores County Extension

DATE: April 8, 2009

SUBJECT: March Activity Report

Cross County Effort:

Regular meetings were held 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 on a daily basis. My weekly radio show on KSJD in Cortez continues with my Friday time slot but now in a new expanded format.

The Fruit Tree Research and Demonstration Project had 70 people at our annual tree pruning workshop. We also completed all of the orchard pruning which took 3 of us (Jan Sennhenn, Kenny Smith and myself) 7 days to complete. All the pruned limbs have been raked up by the Master Gardners, who have been a huge help, and all of our fertilizer has been applied. The new trees for the High Density Planting have arrived and will be planted with the help of the Master Gardners.

The Economic Development Corporation's (DCDC) Dick and Adelene Weber Business Park tenant, San Juan BioEnergy (SJB), is making significant progress in working out the "bugs" of the new plant. Work on this past growing seasons' statistics has been completed and it looks like the average yield per acre of sunflowers rose from 680lbs in 2007 to 820lbs in 2008 - a 21% increase.

DCDC continues to monitor the local economic development situation in the county. The only Motel has reopened and we now have another new business - a Solar Power Engineering firm JP&G Engineering. Dolores County still has the highest unemployment rate in the state now at an astonishing 13.8% as of March 27th. The new sign on the East side of town should be installed in April. 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 (which is waiting for a deed transfer), Youth Build project involving grant funded youth apprenticeship (the Feds should notify us in April) and our National DCTV 4-H Evening News Broadcast-the reviews on our transmissions have been very good but there might be a financial catch to this broadcast which we cannot afford.

Our selling of TV sponsorships continues to move very slowly but we have stepped up the contacts.

Our 4-H program has now started the 2009 projects but participation continues to way down.

Office visitors and phone contacts were normal for the month. Moisture for the month was very low again at .03 inches with normal being 1.24 inches. For the year, we have had .74 inches which is 20% of normal.

CONTACTS	(ALL CONTACTS ARE LOGGED WITH NAMES AND CONTACT PURPOSE)
PHONE	328
OFFICE VISITORS	199
AREA SITE VISITS	35
MEETINGS	12
MEETING PARTICIPANTS	367
WORKSHOPS	2
NEWSLETTERS/NEWSPAPER ARTICLES	12
SLIDE PRESENTATIONS & MISC.	1