

MONTHLY ACTIVITY REPORT

TO: Dolores County Commissioners

FROM: Daniel Fernandez, Director
Dolores County Extension

DATE: December 3, 2008

SUBJECT: November Activity Report

Cross County Effort:

Fruit tree work at Yellow Jacket is finished for the season. Tree Evaluations and 2008 crop report will be completed in December. I am no longer involved with the merger of the San Juan Vo-Tech and Pueblo Community College. My weekly radio show on KSJD in Cortez continues with my Friday time slot. I continue to field many questions from Utah on fruit production and work with the San Juan Basin Extension Agents on 2009 programming.

The Fruit Tree Research and Demonstration Project as mentioned earlier is now in the planning stages for 2009. We are considering establishing a super high-density planting of apples on one of our abandoned grape trellises. We will only use 25 trees but they will be spaced between 12 and 18 inches apart. We have had many inquiries about this type of planting so we are going to give it a try.

The Economic Development Corporation's (DCDC) Dick and Adelene Weber Business Park tenant, San Juan BioEnergy (SJB), will have its plant initiation on December 13th starting at 2pm. It has taken us 4 years and 3 months to get to this point but it has been well worth the wait.

The violent winds early in month destroyed the Dove Creek entry sign on the west end of town, so DCDC and the Town of Dove Creek are partnering to have a massive new sign installed.

We have started initial work on another major project which is the funding and construction of a new Senior Citizens/Community Center in Dove Creek. This is multi million dollar project and anticipate that it will take 2 to 3 years before we initiate construction.

With the help of SW TV Translator Association, we have installed a new high tech TV community calender system. This new system allows us to access weather from our own weather station. We now have the ability to access local, regional and national weather radars/satellite images from websites including our own Dove Creek webcam. We can insert pictures of events, scenery, our sponsors' businesses and utilize a whole host of sophisticated graphics and fonts.

Inquiries on Biodiesel by-product purchasing continues to be high but with commodity prices dropping precipitously, SJB is still proceeding very cautiously.

Our 4-H program continues to prepare for the 2009 year. The DCTV 4-H Evening News Program is rolling along with excellent participation.

Office visitors and phone contacts were normal for the month as again were field inspections. As of this writing, our remote weather station is BACK ON LINE thanks to Dean Santisteven of USDA ARS, but we did lose 5 months of data. For the month (from my house), we had 1.06 inches with normal being 1.45". For the year, we have had 7.08 inches which is 51% of normal.

CONTACTS

(ALL CONTACTS ARE LOGGED WITH
NAMES AND CONTACT PURPOSE)

PHONE	196
OFFICE VISITORS	88
AREA SITE VISITS	25
MEETINGS	9
MEETING PARTICIPANTS	295
WORKSHOPS	1
NEWSLETTERS/NEWSPAPER ARTICLES	12
SLIDE PRESENTATIONS & MISC.	0