

MONTHLY ACTIVITY REPORT

TO: Dolores County Commissioners

FROM: Daniel Fernandez, Director
Dolores County Extension

DATE: November 5, 2008

SUBJECT: October Activity Report

Cross County Effort:

Fruit tree work at Yellow Jacket consisted of winterizing the project which was fully completed. I continue to be involved as the Dolores County representative for 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. I am also now on the Board of Directors of the Montezuma Land Conservancy representing Dolores County.

The Fruit Tree Research and Demonstration Project allowed several non-profits to glean the leftover fruit from the Orchard. And as stated earlier, the orchard is now fully winterized including branch spacer and flash tape removal, draining of the irrigation system and painting the tree trunks with latex paint to avoid winter injury from freezes.

The Economic Development Corporation's (DCDC) Dick and Adelene Weber Business Park tenant, San Juan BioEnergy (SJB), is getting very close to starting-up the plant. The county finished all the access roads and parking lots at the park which was a significant contribution to the facility. DCDC also assisted by assuming a substantial loan to supply the road base material. Full operations are now anticipated to begin December 6th (we hope!) with a plant initiation ceremony and community event. The DCDC and comprehensive Economic Development booklet for the County. It can be found on our web site: <http://www.dolorescounty.org/dcdc.shtml> then click on the brochure link.

We had another lightning hit on our TV station and we have had to spend a significant amount of time trying to make repairs and order new equipment.

Inquiries on Biodiesel by-product purchasing continues to be high but with commodity prices dropping precipitously, SJB is proceeding very cautiously. Still nothing firm on any new businesses looking to move into the park.

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. Our remote weather station is still off line, but there is now hope that the USDA will help repair the station. For the month (from my house), we had .56 inches with normal being 1.89". For the year, we have had 6.82 inches which is 55% of normal.

CONTACTS

(ALL CONTACTS ARE LOGGED WITH NAMES AND CONTACT PURPOSE)

PHONE	250
OFFICE VISITORS	144
AREA SITE VISITS	10
MEETINGS	8
MEETING PARTICIPANTS	199
WORKSHOPS	1
NEWSLETTERS/NEWSPAPER ARTICLES	12
SLIDE PRESENTATIONS & MISC.	0