

Extension News



EXTENSION SPECIALIST RECOGNIZED BY GOV. JON HUNTSMAN



Utah Gov. John Huntsman Jr. recognized Richard Beard, USU Extension agriculture engineering specialist, with a certificate of appreciation for his efforts on the Governor's Blue Ribbon Advisory Council on Climate Change during the summer and fall of 2007.

"Many others, representing various aspects of Utah's businesses, were also involved in this four to five month effort," Beard said. "I was surprised to receive the recognition."

The group defined workable strategies to reduce greenhouse gases while sustaining Utah's vibrant economy and quality of life. Strategies include alternative energy production, energy conservation and improving energy efficient operation for transportation, businesses and homes. City, urban and rural energy improvement opportunities have been identified. Beard is involved in energy efficient transportation, home improvements, new construction and agricultural operations.

WEED SPECIALIST FILLS ENVIRONMENTAL POST

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has a new resource to draw from when making decisions about herbicide regulations – Utah Agricultural Experiment Station researcher and USU Extension weed specialist, Steve Dewey.

In June, Dewey became the liaison between the EPA's Herbicide Registration Division and the Weed Science Society of America (WSSA), the first person to fill the "weed science subject matter expert" position. His mission is to match technical questions from the EPA with members of WSSA and serve as a conduit on matters related to weed management and herbicide regulation.

"I've become much more knowledgeable about the issues associated with the process for approving herbicides for use in the United States," Dewey said. "I'm passing that knowledge along to students and to the public through my role as Extension weed specialist."

For the last half of 2007, Dewey was in Washington, D.C., for one week each month, then just one week every other month through 2008. For several years, Dewey's expertise has been central to mapping and cataloging weeds on public lands, including state and national parks, throughout the Intermountain West. While Washington is providing opportunities to develop new expertise, Dewey admits that given the choice he prefers work in the wide open outdoors.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Utah State Horticulture Association Convention

Jan. 21-23 - Provo
www.utahhort.org

Utah Berry Growers Association Convention

Jan. 23 - Provo

Small Acreage Education Program

Jan. 26 - Price
extension.usu.edu/smac

Utah Green Industry Conference & Trade Show

Jan 28-30 - Sandy
www.UtahGreen.org

Intermountain Nutrition Conference

Jan. 29-30, SLC
www.advs.usu.edu

Utah Beef Field Day

Jan. 29 - Provo

Focusing Cache

Jan. 31 - USU Logan
www.focusingcache.org

Ag Outlook Conference

Jan. 31-Feb. 1 - St. George
www.uba.org

EXTENSION AGENT RECEIVES PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATION

Lou Mueller, USU Extension family and consumer sciences agent in San Juan County, has been designated as a Certified Family Life Educator (CFLE) by the National Council on Family Relations. This distinction is reserved for a select few who demonstrate exceptional achievement in the field of family studies. The National Council on Family Relations sponsors the only international program to certify family life educators. According to the council, recipients are recognized for "the educational, preventive and enriching nature of their work."



To qualify, Mueller submitted an extensive portfolio highlighting her educational background, experience level and practice setting. She demonstrated expertise in all 10 family life content areas: families in society, internal dynamics of families, human growth and development over the lifespan, human sexuality, interpersonal relations, family resource management, parent education and guidance, family law and public policy, ethics and family life education methodology.

Mueller holds a bachelor's degree in psychology and a master's degree in family and human development, both from USU. In addition to her Extension assignment, she teaches as an adjunct professor at the College of Eastern Utah. Her previous experience includes seven years as an advocate for victims of family violence and eight years as an elected official of the Blanding City Council.

As an Extension agent, Mueller provides community education in the areas of family well being, youth development, and nutrition education and behavior. She teaches community workshops on dating violence prevention, healthy relationships, surviving stress, kindness for kids, good nutrition and others. She is also sharing findings from a three-year research study on strong marriages among Navajo couples. Mueller administers the Food \$ense Nutrition Education (F\$NE) program and oversees 4-H leaders and activities. She has also acquired extensive grants for community programs, including recent funding which placed salad carts in five elementary school lunchrooms.

"I love to teach," Mueller reported, "and this certification will help me maintain the CFLE standard of enriching and improving family life for those I serve. That's my goal."

\$10,000 GRANT WILL STRENGTHEN MARRIAGE COALITIONS



Carolyn Washburn, Washington County Extension agent, and Darlene Christensen, Tooele County Extension agent, received a \$10,000 grant from Utah Department of Workforce Services to strengthen local coalitions that plan and provide marriage education and service for communities.

Both Tooele and Washington counties have active community coalitions that consist of faith leaders, education agencies, domestic violence prevention groups, professionals and community members. These coalitions plan and carry out workshops, seminars and a "Marriage Celebration" in February in connection with Marriage USA Week.

Tooele County offers three events throughout the year — a spring retreat, fall conference and Valentine's event, which will be held on February 14, 2008. Last year, Eldon and Dawna Anderson (pictured above) received the "Longest Married" Healthy Marriage Award.

Washington County celebration is being held on the February 8, 2008 with workshops, dinner to honor the recipients of the hall of fame and a concert with Michael Ballam. The coalition also offers various marriage enrichment classes throughout the year.

"Research has shown that happy couples spend six hours a year in relationships enhancement activities," Washburn said. "We are pleased to have additional funding that can promote positive marriage and family enrichment activities."

Monies from the grant, funded from temporary assistance to needy families, will also provide newlywed couples with 12 Marriage\$ense newsletters containing articles about marriage and money.

USU PROJECTS FUNDED BY SENATOR BOB BENNETT'S REQUESTS



President Bush signed a major spending bill December 26, 2007, which will fund continued operation of the federal government for the next fiscal year, beginning October 1, and includes over \$290 million for Utah projects requested by Senator Bob Bennett (R-Utah), a member of the Senate Appropriations Committee.

"After months of debate and consideration in the Senate, I am happy to announce that many critical projects in Utah will be funded this coming year," Bennett said.

A list of approved Bennett requests in the Fiscal Year 2008 Omnibus Appropriations Bill that benefit Utah State University are below:

-Agriculture Research Center, \$5.5 million — This funding will support the planning, design and preliminary stages of construction for a new USU and USDA Agriculture Research Service facility to replace the existing agriculture science building.

-Pasture and Forage Research, \$187,000 — This will complete a USU research project in Utah Agricultural Experiment Station that focuses on the integration of improved forage species and pastures, resulting in a system that can help the livestock industry.

-Space Dynamics Laboratory (SDL) at Utah State University, \$376,000 —The lab will develop the equipment to transfer National Institute of Standards and Technology data to working calibration sources used for missions.

-Renewable Energy for Rural Economic Development at USU, \$1 million — USU will use funding to continue research on the economic impact of wind power and other renewable sources to increase the use of efficient energy technologies in Utah's rural communities.

-Salinity Control Assessment for Upper Colorado River Basin at USU, \$120,000 — Funding will help develop a framework for a cost-benefit assessment of the economic advantages, efficiency and salinity control measures for the Upper Colorado River Basin to reduce economic damage to the lower basin users — primarily the agricultural community — with an emphasis on expanding energy development and land use activities in the upper basin.

-Bee Biology and Systematics Laboratory, \$302,000 — This lab conducts pollen research that helps farmers increase their crop yields. This funding and research at USU are critical to further explore the current bee shortage and the effects of pollen on crop production.

-U.S./China Joint Biotechnology Research Programs, \$447,000 — In collaboration with the Chinese Ministry of Science and Technology, Xiamen University and the Northwest Sci-Tech University of Agricultural and Forestry of the People's Republic of China, USU will develop joint research programs in agricultural biotechnology.

-Drought Management Initiative, \$670,000 — This initiative seeks to develop accurate prediction of water yield, improved agricultural irrigation and better management of urban water demand.

-Research and Education Outreach at the Utah Botanical Center, \$670,000 — Research will support production of low water-use plants in sustainable home landscapes for high-desert environments.

-Biotechnology and Genomics Research Program, \$1.1 million — Research studies through the program will examine how organisms interact with their environment by extract-

WELCOME MELANIE JEWKES

Extension is pleased to welcome Melanie Jewkes as the Duchesne County family and consumer sciences and 4-H agent. She received her bachelor's degree in family finance from USU. Jewkes completed internships at the USU Family Life Center, Housing and Financial Counseling and with Adrie Roberts at the USU Cache County Extension office. Unwilling to let either experience be short-lived, she continued to work with both the Family Life Center and Cache County Extension for two years while working toward a master's degree in consumer sciences.



Jewkes was born and raised in Orem, Utah. Logan became her new home in 2003 when she began her first semester at USU. She and her husband, Sam, have been married for two-and-a-half years. She said they are excited for her career in USU Extension to begin.

NEW UTAH HOUSE EDUCATOR



Jayne Mulford has spent the last three years working with the Utah House and Utah Botanical Center team developing and implementing their educational programs. As the new Utah House Educator, she will continue to manage the facility and programming.

Prior to working at the Utah House, Mulford received her bachelor's degree in landscape architecture and environmental planning from USU. She then spent 21 years as a self-employed landscape designer and illustrator while raising her four children. She says she enjoys the wide range of programs and versatility USU Extension offers. She is looking forward to educating people about sustainable living through field trips, house tours, merit badge classes and adult education workshops.

WELCOME NAOMI WEEKS

Extension is pleased to welcome Naomi Weeks as the Weber County family and consumer sciences and 4-H agent. Weeks graduated from Weber State University with a bachelor's degree in family studies/psychology and received her master's degree in family and human development from USU.

"I am excited for the opportunity to expand my teaching opportunities and to share information that I believe can help individuals have a better quality life," she said.

Weeks is a certified family life educator and recently worked for the Department of Workforce Services providing assistance to low-income families. She also taught life skills classes to community members before joining Extension.



TAKE A LOOK AT THE RECENT EXTENSION PUBLICATIONS

Peer Reviewed Publications Completed in November and December 2007

[Winding Down for Winter](#)

[Controlando el Estrés en Familias Ensambladas](#)

[Managing Stress in Stepfamilies](#)

[Swine Artificial Insemination for Beginners: The Insemination Process](#)

[Aging Horses by Their Teeth](#)

[Little Bluestem in the Landscape](#)

New Publications from Utah Plant Pest Diagnostic Laboratory

[Beneficial Insects: Mantids](#)

[Beneficial Insects: Beetles](#)

[Beneficial Insects: True Bugs](#)

HELP SPREAD THE WORD ABOUT EXTENSION EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Professional positions with Extension are currently open and we would like your help in spreading the word. Below is a list of positions needing to be filled. Please forward this list to anyone you know who might be interested in applying.

Northern Region

[4-H FitFactor Intern - Davis County](#)

[4-H Agent - Tooele County](#)

Southeast Region

[Family and Consumer Sciences/4-H Agent - Summit County](#)

[Family and Consumer Sciences/4-H Agent - Duchesne County](#)

Southwest Region

[Family and Consumer Sciences/4-H Agent - Sanpete County](#)

[Family and Consumer Sciences/4-H Agent - Wayne County](#)

Visit the USU Extension employment site by clicking [here](#).

Utah State University is an affirmative action/equal opportunity institution.