

Extension News

JUNE 2008

Utah State UNIVERSITY | **COOPERATIVE extension**

UTAH TO JOIN STATEWIDE RAIN GAUGE NETWORK IN JULY



On July 1, Utahns will join a nationwide community-based network of volunteers scattered in over 30 states who collect daily precipitation measurements that will help improve maps, records and predictions of rain, hail and snowfall.

The project is sponsored in part by Cooperative Extension. The Utah Climate Center is coordinating Utah's support within the Community Collaborative Rain, Hail and Snow Program (CoCoRaHS). Esmail Malek, associate director of the Utah Climate Center, located at Utah State University, said many individuals and family volunteers of all ages and backgrounds will be solicited to help measure precipitation throughout Utah. Before collecting, volunteers must first register at the CoCoRaHS Web site.

Currently, 9,000 CoCoRaHS observers in the United States submit daily precipitation findings for all to view at cocorahs.org.

EXTENSION VIDEOS GO GLOBAL

Utah State University Extension videos go global on YouTube and Google video.

Short clips with Extension specialists and agents are being posted weekly to these video sharing networks to provide the public with demonstrations and information on topics such as pruning shrubs and water conservation.

These informational videos and others can be viewed on USU Extension's [YouTube channel](#), USU Extension's [Google Video channel](#) or at extension.usu.edu under the new multimedia link.

To have a short educational video produced, preferably less than five minutes, contact Extension marketing and communications or Dennis Hinkamp, Extension communications and public relations specialist, at dennish@ext.usu.edu.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Annual Utah Conservation Field Day

June 19 - Brigham
www.uacd.org/districts/BoxElder/Home.htm

4-H Junior Youth Conference

June 23-25 - Ephraim
www.utah4h.org/html/events-registration/junior-youth-conference

All-Utah Junior Diary Show

July 8-9 - Wasatch County Fairgrounds

4-H State Contests

July 14-16 - Logan,
utah4h.org/html/events-registration/statecontests

Farm Bureau Mid-Year Convention

July 17-18 - Park City
utfb.fb.org/Website/CalendarofEvents.html

State of Extension Web cast

July 28 - Logan

HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE AT USU SEES CHANGES



Utah State University enhances health insurance coverage by adding a no-premium option for the 2008-09 year and waiving the deductible for preventive care on all plans.

BrandE Faupell, director of human resources at USU, said at a Breeze training on May 27 that benefactors of the insurance will only need to pay their co-pay, not a deductible, for preventive care on both the existing two plans and the new plan they unveiled.

USU previously offered the "Blue Plan" with a high premium and a lower deductible and the "White Plan" with a lower premium and higher deductible. The third option is now the "High Deductible Choice Plan" with no premium and a very high deductible.

Faupell described the high deductible choice plan like a medical IRA because it is coupled with a health savings account that can be used tax-free. She said that benefits of the new plan include the tax benefits, as well as no medical premiums and no "use-it or lose-it" policy. Employees can contact the human resource department for an appointment and personal discussion on the three plan choices.

SOIL SPECIALIST'S PAPER AWARDED HONORABLE MENTION

Grant Cardon, USU Extension soils specialist, along with his co-authors, Nathan Foged and Luis Garcia from Colorado State University, were awarded the Journal of Irrigation and Drainage Engineering's Honorable Mention Paper Award from the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE).

The paper entitled, "Development of a GIS-Based Model to Estimate Relative Reductions in Crop Yield Due to Salinity and Waterlogging," received the award at the World Environmental and Water Resources Congress held in Honolulu, Hawaii, May 12-16, 2008.

Cardon is active in saline soils research efforts in the state of Utah and the intermountain region. He is currently working on detailed salinity mapping surveys of the Bear River and Sevier River basins using remotely-sensed soil conductivity data.



EXTENSION PROGRAMS PRESENTED AT NATIONAL CONFERENCE



USU Extension presented at the 2008 Western Interstate Region National Association of Counties (NACo) Conference May 23, in St. George.

Noelle E. Cockett, vice president for USU Extension, discussed the National Association of Counties' partnerships in Utah. She said Extension's partnership with NACo offers the organization experience in delivering and facilitating programs, as well as broad expertise, infrastructure and name recognition. In her presentation, she also highlighted the Utah Saves and Keeping America Prepared Conferences, sponsored in part by USU Extension.

SuzAnne Jorgensen (pictured), Extension family and consumer science agent for Garfield County, co-presented a workshop at the conference entitled, "Taking Advantage of Rural Development Resources," with Don Albrecht, new director of Western Rural Development Center and Donna Birk, public information coordinator of USDA Rural Development.

E. Bruce Godfrey, Extension farm management specialist, also spoke about federal land allocation. He said that the administration of government land has always caused controversy because "root issues" have stayed the same. Some of these issues include costs and rights associated with land access.

NACo is a national organization, founded in 1935, now representing more than 2,000 county governments in the United States, advancing issues with a unified voice before the federal government. For the presentations or information about NACo, visit www.naco.org.

ECONOMIC WEBCAST CO-HOSTED BY EXTENSION



Extension co-hosted the 6th Quarterly Governor's Office of Economic Development Webcast, May 15, in Salt Lake City.

Special guest Joseph Katz (pictured), with the Utah Division of Environmental Response and Remediation, shared the tools and resources that the organization has to help with remediation of brownfields, contaminated sites. They offer assistance in accessing the land and in preparing a grant application to submit to the Environmental Protection Agency.

The second guest speaker, Mark Holmes, regional director of Small Business Development Center, discussed the outreach services the center provides. The SBDC provides economic services to start-up businesses in the community, including surveys of businesses' effectiveness, business support courses and entrepreneur training via personal meetings, telephone, online, live-meeting software or in CD format.

COUNTY DIGITAL PHOTO CONTEST COMING THIS SUMMER

Extension marketing is pleased to announce an upcoming county digital photo contest this summer. Pictures are to reflect the uniqueness of each of Utah's 29 counties. Ideas include landscape, architecture, historic landmarks, people, recreation, and/or Extension activities.

Selected photos will be published in 2009 Extension publications and on Extension County Web sites. Submissions are open to Extension employees and the public, limited to three per person. Watch for more contest details to be provided in the very near future.



EXTENSION WELCOMES JANA DARRINGTON



Extension welcomes Jana Darrington as the new USU Extension family and consumer science agent in the Utah County.

Darrington said her education has always been centered on the family. She received her bachelor's degree in family history/genealogy from Brigham Young University and her master's degree in family, consumer, and human development from Utah State University. Before coming to Extension, Darrington was a professional teacher and said she enjoyed her involvement in community issues.

She said, "I am grateful to be involved in the Extension program and look forward to working with community leaders and individuals, finding ways that will be of benefit to them."

EXTENSION WELCOMES LISA LEWIS

Extension welcomes Lisa Lewis, M.Ed., as the family and consumer science Extension agent for Wayne and Piute counties. She attended the University of Utah, where she graduated with bachelor's degrees in art history and anthropology. Lewis then earned a master's degree in education from Montana State.

Prior to Extension, Lewis was the academic director for Aspen Education Group in Loa. She has traveled through Thailand, Laos, Canada and Mexico. She spent a summer in Germany at the University of Kiel. She also received a Rotary International Grant and spent six weeks in Japan.

Lewis was born and raised in Salt Lake City, Utah. She is a runner, a hiker and an avid telemark skier. She lives in Bicknell.



EXTENSION WELCOMES JAMES BOWCUTT

Extension welcomes James Bowcutt as the Bear River watershed coordinator. He received a bachelor's degree from USU in watershed science. He said that he works side-by-side with the Utah Division of Environmental Quality, Utah Association of Conservation Districts and Natural Resources Conservation Service to improve water quality.

Bowcutt grew up in Beaver Dam, Utah. He currently lives in Garland, Utah, with his wife, Karen Kirkland, and his 2-year-old son, Payton. He enjoys hunting, fishing, camping and spending time with his family.

EXTENSION WELCOMES SUSAN HAWS



Extension welcomes Susan Haws as the new family and consumer science and 4-H agent in Summit County.

Haws completed her bachelor's degree from Brigham Young University in home economics education, teaching then in Tooele and at North Summit. She then received a master's degree in early childhood education from Boise State University. Prior to her new job with Extension, she worked at a middle school in Eagle, Idaho. She said she likes working with youth and has been actively involved with the 4-H program all of her life.

"Summit County is such a great place to live," Haws said. "We have the benefits of rural as well as suburban communities. I look forward to helping the county with family and consumer science needs. I am anxious to work with the various community groups all over Summit County."

EXTENSION IN THE NEWS

View recent articles written by or about Extension in May 2008

[Cold spring chilling Utah's fruit crop](#)

[Winter weather puts Utah's fruit crop at risk](#)

[Cheap chic: Tips to look good on a budget](#)

[4-H considers adding technical education](#)

[Add Pizazz to your garden with flowering trees](#)

[Enoch encourages residents to plant trees](#)

[Talking Point: The economy versus recreational activities](#)

[Noxious weed targeted](#)

[Easy ways to save water](#)

[Food sense](#)

[Spotlight: Mike Washburn, CEO Thanksgiving Point](#)

TAKE A LOOK AT THE RECENT EXTENSION PUBLICATIONS

Peer Reviewed Publications Completed in May 2008

[Seasonal Splendor](#)

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

HELP SPREAD THE WORD ABOUT EXTENSION EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Professional positions within Utah State 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.

4-H Youth Programs

[State 4-H Science, Engineering, and Technology Program Coordinator - Cache County](#)
[Program Assistant, Utah 4-H Operation: Military Kids](#)

Northern Region

[4-H Hill Air Force Base Summer Intern](#)

[Assistant Site Coordinator, YFP After-School -Rich County](#)

[Davis County Resident Services Assistant at Mercy Housing](#)

Southeast Region

[Middle School Afterschool Mentoring Coordinator](#)

Southwest Region

[Staff Assistant - Washington County](#)

[Site Coordinator, YFP After-School - Iron County](#)

[Iron County Water Wise landscape Extension Educator](#)

[4-H After-school Site Coordinator - Richfield](#)

[4-H After-school Site Coordinator - Monroe](#)

[Summer Internship - Sevier County](#)

[4-H Coordinator I](#)

[Summer Internship - Kane County](#)

[Soil Moisture Technician - Panguitch](#)

[4-H Extension Intern - Beaver County](#)

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

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