

Extension News

MARCH 2008

UtahState
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extension

SOIL DISTRICT PLAYS ROLE IN COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT



Utah's population is expected to approach 3.5 million by 2030 — a growth rate of 56 percent over three decades, and Box Elder County is already experiencing its fair share of unprecedented residential and commercial growth.

Tremonton City alone approved 117 building permits in 2007, a 20 percent increase over 2006, and it is expected to continue in the seeable future.

"It is important that we take action now so we are sure to manage this growth and not let it manage us," Lyle Holmgren, Box Elder County Extension agent said. "The Utah Association of Conservation Districts and Northern Utah Soil Conservation District are to be commended for their foresight. They are important players in our community."

Holmgren said the Northern Utah Soil Conservation District has provided leadership and important information for community development already. The soil district is promoting and funding a study to identify field drains, some as old as 80 years, in several communities in Box Elder County. They are concerned that drain lines are becoming plugged, broken and severed, or built over. The identification of these field drains is important not only to agriculture but for city planners, city councils and developers.

THANKSGIVING POINT RECEIVES GRANT

Project Learning Tree® (PLT), the environmental education program of the American Forest Foundation, announced Feb. 20 that it awarded a *GreenWorks!* grant of \$950 to Corrine Mayberry at Thanksgiving Point Institute to help 4-H teen leaders plan, design and implement summer camp programs for 1,600 younger campers. Through the project, the teens will also maintain a garden, begin a solar greenhouse program and develop new gardening activities with Junior Master Gardeners. In addition, the club plans to grow basil seedlings that have returned from [space](#).

Since 1992, Project Learning Tree has distributed more than \$500,000 to fund 730 grant projects in communities across the country. Proposals for the spring 2008 grants are due on April 30, 2008. Grants of up to \$5,000 are available.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Extension Annual Planning & Professional Development Conference

Mar. 4-6 - Logan

Utah Water Users Workshop

Mar. 11-12 - St. George

www.extension.usu.edu/uwu

Association of Youth Councils Leadership Institute

Mar. 13-15 - Logan

ayc.usu.edu

Small Acreage Workshop

Mar. 22 - Morgan

www.extension.usu.edu

Rural Business Conference hosted by Senator Bennett

Mar. 25-26 - Price

www.ruralutah.com

Horse Show Judges' Certification Program

Mar. 28-29 - Morgan

www.extension.usu.edu

JOLENE BUNNELL INAUGURATED TO EXTENSION PROFESSOR



Congratulations to JoLene Bunnell, who as a result of being promoted to Extension professor in spring 2007, gave her Inaugural Address February 26 to USU President Stan Albrecht, Provost Raymond Coward and Vice President for Extension Noelle E. Cockett.

"She did a great job," said Kevin Kesler, 4-H and youth program leader. "Extension is fairly young in the promotion and tenure process and JoLene is the first agent with a 100 percent 4-H assignment to be promoted to Extension professor in Utah. 4-H could not be more proud of JoLene and her accomplishments."

EXTENSION EMPLOYEES CO-AUTHOR LEAD ARTICLE



The most recent lead [article](#) in “The Forum for Family and Consumer Issues” was co-authored by three USU Extension employees and a USU graduate assistant.

Kathy Dimick, Utah County Director of 4-H mentoring, Youth and Families with Promise; Brian J. Higginbotham, USU Extension family life specialist; Monti Poulson, Utah County Site-Coordinator of 4-H Mentoring, Youth and Families with Promise; and Stacey MacArthur, USU graduate research assistant, explain how to tap into college and university campuses as a source for at-risk youth mentors in their article, “Recruiting college students to be youth mentors.” Pictured are Caroline Turner, mentor from Utah County, and Stephanie Erickson, mentee from Utah County.

“Mentoring programs are becoming an increasingly popular intervention to promote positive youth development,” the article states. “However, in the United States there are more at-risk youth than there are mentors.”

To solve this problem, they suggest three tips for agents and program staff when recruiting: make the application process mobile, dispel the myths and highlight the benefits of mentoring, and extend personal invitations.

GROUNDBREAKING WEB SITE ANSWERS LIFE’S QUESTIONS

A groundbreaking new Web site launched Feb. 21, eXtension.org, promises to be a gateway to answering all of life’s little questions – from parenting, to saving and investing, entrepreneurship and vegetable gardens.

eXtension experts are the brains behind eXtension.org, a sort of “next-gen Google,” where curious minds can find a range of information including how to calculate their retirement readiness score, tips to easing credit card debt, how to grow the best tomatoes on the block or ways to set a schedule for a newborn baby. Even better, if the consumer can’t find the information he or she is looking for, authorities in their area of interest monitor and answer questions through the Web site. And all of eXtension’s resources are available to knowledge-seekers at no cost.

With 16 resource areas, called “Communities of Practice,” consumers can easily navigate the site to find the answers they need. A Community of Practice is typically multi-institutional, multi-state and multi-disciplinary bringing the “best of the best” educational resources to the public.

eXtension is affiliated with Cooperative Extension. Due to this relationship with Cooperative Extension, eXtension.org is able to pull the best, most researched knowledge from the smartest land-grant university minds across America, connecting consumers with knowledge providers.



EXTENSION CO-SPONSORS SHEEP AND GOAT DAY



Though there were no actual goats or sheep at the Feb. 23 Sheep and Goat Day in Provo this year, there was considerable expertise.

Nearly 200 participants filled the Utah County Building meeting rooms to hear the latest research on goat and sheep production. Presenters came from Idaho, Minnesota, Nevada and Texas, in addition to Utah State University’s Animal, Dairy and Veterinary Science faculty. The sessions centered on health issues, marketing and reproductive physiology of small flocks. Perhaps the most well-traveled of the presenters was 79-year old Dr. Frank “Goat Man” Pinkerton of Grapeland, Tex. Pinkerton gave a colorful historical account of the history of meat goat production in the United States and added valuable marketing advice to potential goat raisers.

The conference was sponsored by the Utah Wool Growers Association, The Mountain States Meat Goat Association and USU Extension.

RURAL UTAH WILL BENEFIT FROM QUARTERLY WEB CASTS

Quarterly Utah Economic Network webcasts will continue through 2008, the next on May 15, in partnership with USU Extension and the Governors Office of Economic Development. The most recent webcast was held on Feb. 21 and can be viewed at <http://breeze.usu.edu/p68584587/>.

"Our goal is to help individuals, families and communities in the rural parts of the state with economic development issues," said Scott Boyer, executive director of marketing for USU Cooperative Extension. "By facilitating these webcasts, we are reaching out to anyone in the state who has access to the internet."

Boyer works with Jason Perry, executive director of GOED, Beverly Evans and Les Prall of GOED, and Terry Davis, State of Utah Information Technology Services, to produce the webcasts with timely and relevant topics.

EXTENSION IN THE NEWS

View recent articles written by or about Extension in February 2008

[USU Extension expert gives local pruning demonstrations](#)

[America Saves Week offers assistance to financially troubled](#)

[Farmers Online](#)

[Snow fleas abound in Utah County](#)

TAKE A LOOK AT THE RECENT EXTENSION PUBLICATIONS

Peer Reviewed Publications Completed in February 2008

[Integrating the Latino Population in Extension and Community Youth Programs](#)

[Water-Wise Landscaping: Plant Maintenance](#)

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](#)

Northern Region

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

[Bear River Watershed Coordinator](#)

Southeast Region

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

[Assistant Professor and FCS Agent - Utah County](#)

Southwest Region

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

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

[Extension Assistant Professor and Agriculture/4-H Agent - Millard County](#)

[Staff Assistant - Washington County](#)

[4-H Coordinator I](#)

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

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