

Rural Rehabilitation

REPORTS



January 2005

Message from the President

Paul Johnson, President

First of all, I would like to extend my deepest sympathy to the family of Koy Page who recently passed away. It was a pleasure to be able to see Koy at our Annual Convention in Salt Lake City, which he had wanted to host for the last number of years and finally became a reality this year. I really appreciated Koy Page and the input and impact that he had on our organization and especially for inviting the National Association of Rural Rehabilitation Corporation to Salt Lake City for our Annual Meeting. What a beautiful state with its majestic mountains, Olympic Park, and ski areas. The Tabernacle Choir on Sunday was very much enjoyed by everyone.

A very special thank you to Kyle Stevens, George Hopkins, and his staff in the Utah Department of Agriculture for stepping in during Koy's illness to put together an informational and interesting conference and tours. I know from speaking with Koy during the conference that he was very pleased with the effort that was put in by the Department to carry on the Annual Conference.

It is always great to see old friends and meet new members of the association to learn what they are doing in their states and to make rural America a better place for generations to come. It is amazing as we attend these conferences in different states to see how vital and important the agriculture is to the state's economy.

Start planning now for next year's annual meeting in Little Rock, Arkansas, September 11-14, 2005. It will be held at the Peabody Hotel. Bruce Wall and the staff are putting together another great conference.

I hope to see you there.



2004 Annual Meeting

The National Association of Rural Rehabilitation Corporations (NARRC) met for their Annual Meeting September 19-21, 2004, in Salt Lake City, Utah. The meeting was called to order by Vice President Paul Johnson. The Pledge of Allegiance was said. Johnson then introduced the Board, along with Kyle Stevens and George Hopkins from Utah. Roll call of the states was presented by Ila Deinert, Acting Secretary/Treasurer. Sixteen states were represented.

George Hopkins introduced Kyle Stevens, Deputy Commissioner of Utah, who presented an overview of the Utah Department of Agriculture and Food (UDAF) and some of its programs, such as:

- Utah Egg Quality Assurance Plan
- Utah Cattle Health Assurance Program
- Utah Partners for Conservation

- Utah and Development Confined Animal Feeding Operation

Utah's Commissioner Cary Peterson gave an official welcome to all of the delegates.

Larry Lewis, Public Affairs Specialist - UDAF, spoke on open space and conservation in Utah dealing with growth, how to protect farmland and conservation easements. He stated that in 2004 the U.S. exported 60 billion in ag exports. Also, ours is the cheapest food in the world with ten percent of U.S. income going for food. He said in 1997, the U.S. lost 16 million acres of agricultural land to subdivision non-farm commercial development.

Seth Winterton, Investigator for UDAF, spoke on organic farming in Utah and how to add value to the products, have the convenience in products for the consumers, and how to increase organic production in Utah. Farmers have been expanding from several acres to large farms and are interested in interacting with the consumers. They are helping

people market their products as they see more people being concerned with the food they eat.

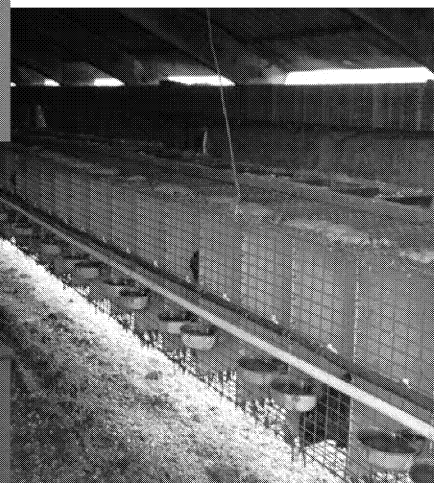
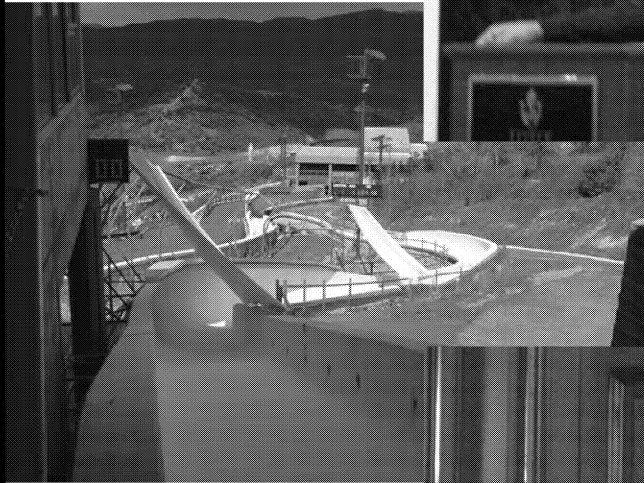
Dr. Jack Payne, Vice President Utah State University (USU) Extension, spoke on the how to preserve our natural resources with clean water and clean air. After lunch, Kyle Stevens introduced Debra Spielmanker, Director, Utah Ag-in-the-Classroom. She stated, we needed to improve agriculture literacy by increasing student awareness on agriculture, because agriculture affects our quality of life and our environment. We were then given a small test on our knowledge of agriculture.

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Upcoming Conferences

Sept. 11-14, 2005 Little Rock, Arkansas
2006 Montana
2007 Alabama
2008 North Dakota





(Continued from Page 1)

Mark Habbeshaw, County Commissioner of Kane County, spoke on entitlement of the Grand Staircase National Monument and how this has locally affected Utah with road issues, grazing elimination, and water wildlife. Kane County was designated a national monument during the Clinton Administration.

Dr. Ralph Whitesides, Plant, Soil, and Biometeorologist Department from USU, spoke on difficult conversations. He stated a difficult conversation is anything you find hard to talk about. He showed that on an average day, the dilemma of difficult conversations, whether to

avoid or confront them in everyday life. How some of them lead to mediation, stating that difficult conversations are a normal part of life. He gave us three basic listening skills:

- Inquire to learn, which means get more concrete answers;
- Paraphrasing for clarity, show that you hear; and
- Acknowledge the other person's feelings.

The NARRC Annual Business Meeting was called to order by Vice President Johnson. Nominating Committee Chairman Bill Fortier, South Dakota, introduced the other members of

his Committee, Sonny Roberts, Florida, and David Skinner, Georgia. The following slate of officers were approved:

- President Paul Johnson, Michigan
 - Vice President John Woeste, Florida
 - Board Member Jerry Driscoll, Kansas
 - Board Member John Teel, Mississippi
- Audit Committee Chairman Ed Smith, from Colorado, introduced his Committee Janet Richards from Maine and Linda Stover from New Mexico.

Deinert then read the budget report stating the corrections that were made. **A motion was made and seconded to accept the Financial Statement as presented. Motion passed.**

John Woeste made an amendment to the September 7, 2003, minutes. **A motion was made and seconded to accept as corrected. Motion passed.**

On Tuesday, September 21st, the group took a tour of Utah agriculture in and around Salt Lake City. We departed from Salt Lake City and drove to Ward and Dennis Reese's mink ranch where we had a tour of mink farming. (Hope everyone is using the sock turner.) We then went to Jordanelle State Park where they gave us a background on the Jordanelle Dam and the operation and maintenance of it.

Empire Lodge at the Deer Valley Resort was the setting for a delicious lunch. We then toured the Utah Winter Olympic Sport Park where the 2002 Winter Olympic's were held.

*We wish to extend our sympathy
to the family of
Koy Page who passed away
in November 2004.
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NARRC
Membership
Dues
now due.