

Francis, Ronald - Salt Lake City, UT

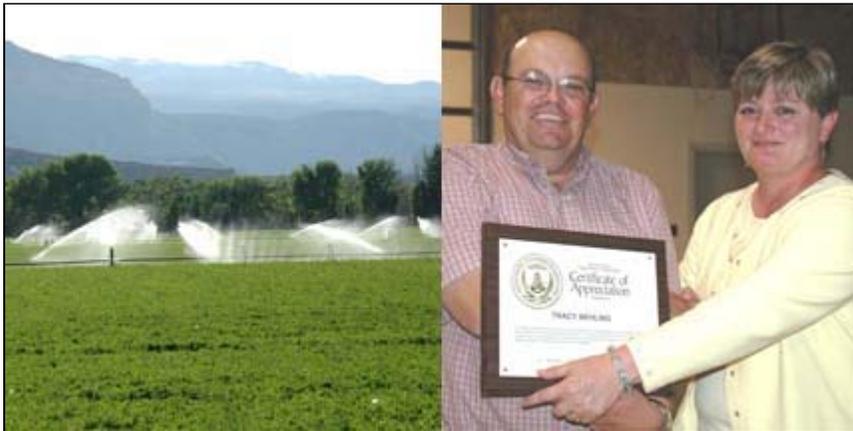
Subject: eBlast from NRCS



June 14, 2006

FERRON SALINITY PROJECT CELEBRATES COMPLETION

Last Thursday afternoon a long-awaited celebration was held in Ferron, Utah, marking the completion of a salinity control irrigation efficiency project that has not only transformed agriculture and the community in the Ferron watershed, but has demonstrated an estimated annual savings of 47,000 tons of salt that could have entered the Colorado River.



NRCS State Conservationist Sylvia Gillen represented the agency at the event and congratulated the federal, state and local partners who have worked so well together to accomplish such a successful project. She presented certificates of appreciation to Tracy Behling (see accompanying photo), president of the local canal company, and Roger Barton,

UACD watershed coordinator, who helped guide the project over the past 6-7 years. Gillen noted this is one of the most successful Utah cooperative conservation projects in recent years, and is a great example to other communities.

The new irrigation efficiency project (which serves 100 percent of the watershed producers) covers 10,000 acres of agricultural land with pressurized sprinklers and represents a system with 175 miles of pipe fed by two laterals from Millsite Reservoir and three regulating ponds. The delivery system was funded by BOR and the on-farm irrigation systems were developed through EQIP and state parallel funding.

With funding from the Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Forum, NRCS and the UDAF Parallel Program produced a video on the project that was premiered at the celebration event and will be shown to producer groups in the upper basin states.

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