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News Release

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FARM BILL HELPS RURAL INDIANA IMPROVE WATER AND WASTEWATER DISPOSAL SYSTEMS

Indianapolis (02-31; 8-23-02): On May 13th President George Bush, Jr. signed the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002. For many rural communities across the country the 2002 Farm Bill will have special significance.

Agriculture Secretary Ann Veneman announced on August 20, 2002 that \$703 million of financial assistance from the Farm Bill is being made available to rural communities nationwide as part of the Bush Administration's ongoing commitment to strengthen rural America. This funding will support 377 projects in 47 states that will provide safe drinking water and efficient wastewater disposal systems for their residents and businesses.

"Rural America is an integral part of this nation's economic fabric and President Bush is committed to programs that create jobs and spur investment and economic growth," said Veneman. "These projects will provide critical infrastructure funding that will help residents and businesses in rural communities, as well as create jobs and more investment in these areas."

In Indiana, USDA Rural Development State Director Bob White announced today that as part of this initiative sixteen water and wastewater disposal projects throughout the state are receiving nearly \$50 million. White said, "Rural communities cannot survive without adequate water and wastewater disposal systems. These systems can be very expensive

but they are critical for the economic and physical health of rural residents. Congress has enabled USDA through the 2002 Farm Bill to fund many Indiana infrastructure projects that we have had pending."

Many urban and suburban residents do not realize that millions of rural Americans live in homes with contaminated or insufficient water - or no piped in water at all. Millions more are hooked to substandard sewage disposal systems that are often the cause of pollution.

During 2002, USDA will provide nearly \$2 billion to fund more than 1,100 water and waste disposal projects in rural communities. Since 1994, USDA Rural Development has invested nearly \$350 million in rural Indiana to help communities improve their quality of life through new or improved water and wastewater disposal projects.

Single family home loans, rural rental housing, water and waste water disposal system funding, business and industry loans, and community facility loans and grants are financial resources available from USDA Rural Development. Information on these programs is available at your nearest USDA Service Center or on the Internet at www.rurdev.usda.gov

Attached: Listing of Indiana projects.

INDIANA RECIPIENTS OF 2002 FARM BILL FUNDING
FOR INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS

	Loan	Grant
LaGrange County Regional Sewer District	\$4,796,000	\$3,924,000
Twin Lakes Regional Sewer District	\$4,944,500	\$4,045,500
Town of Paoli	\$3,575,000	\$0
Town of Medaryville	\$770,000	\$2,310,000
Town of Rockville	\$2,698,000	\$0
Town of Greens Fork (2)	\$515,000	\$1,759,000
Decatur County Rural Water Corp.	\$2,075,100	\$1,691,000
Finch-Newton Water Inc.	\$598,000	\$0
Jackson County Water Utility Inc.	\$5,346,000	\$0
South Henry Regional Waste District	\$102,000	\$821,000
Town of Mt. Etna	\$283,000	\$849,000
East Germantown	\$300,000	\$1,027,000
Monroe County Regional Sewer District	\$824,100	\$1,062,900
Nyona/South Mud Lake Conservancy District	\$997,000	\$2,808,000
Southwestern Bartholomew Water Corp.	\$1,354,000	\$0