

Earth Day in Louisiana

April 2003

Rural Development Presents Over \$10 Million to Louisiana Communities



During a two-day celebration, Rural Development marked Earth Day in Louisiana by helping three rural communities address health and environmental issues.

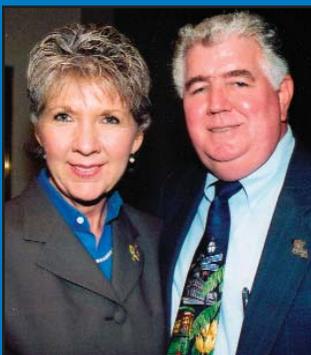
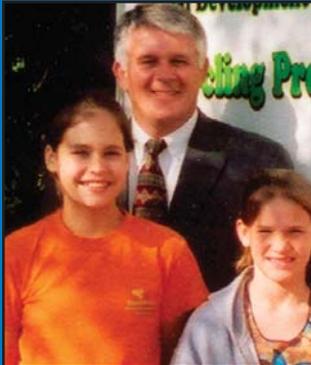
Louisiana State Director Michael B. Taylor traveled the state April 22 and 23 delivering good news and funds to Livingston Parish, Simsboro, and Kaplan, Louisiana.

These communities will use Rural Development loan and grant funds to build new sewer systems and renovate old sewer systems that are no longer in compliance with federal regulations.

Taylor also announced that Trailblazer RC&D of Ruston, Louisiana, has been selected to proceed with their application for Rural Development solid waste management grant funding. Trailblazer is known statewide for their very successful multi-parish recycling program.

"Rural Development funds are making a cleaner, healthier Louisiana possible," said Taylor. "We are helping communities do the right thing by bringing sewage service to homes and businesses currently with no service, repairing existing sewer systems that are health risks, and encouraging communities to recycle products."

Hilda G. Legg, Rural Utilities Service Administrator, joined Taylor for the Kaplan Earth Day event hosted in Baton Rouge. Louisiana's Governor Mike Foster opened the Kaplan event by commending communities and organizations in Louisiana for working together to improve the environment.





Earth Day in Louisiana
Livingston Parish Council

USDA United States Department of Agriculture
Rural Development

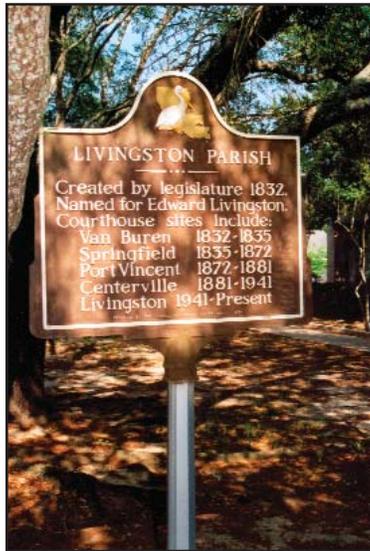
NEW SEWAGE SYSTEM

Earth Day Event
April 22, 2003
Livingston Parish Louisiana

LIVINGSTON, April 22, 2003 - The U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development observed Earth Day by presenting \$4.5 million in Rural Utilities Service loan and grant funds to the Livingston Parish Council to construct a new sewer system in Livingston Parish.

U.S. Congressman Richard Baker and Rural Development State Director Michael B. Taylor presented the \$4.5 million to Dewey Ratcliff, Livingston Parish President.

"This construction will bring sewer service to 268 residential users, three commercial users, and one school-many located on or near the Tickfaw and Blood Rivers," said Taylor. "The new sewer system will not only improve the quality of life for the people in this area, it will help protect the water quality in these rivers."



\$4.5 Million Investment



Protecting Water Quality in the Tickfaw and Blood Rivers

RUS Loan	\$2,572,000
RUS Grant	\$1,945,000





Earth Day in Louisiana
Village of Simsboro



United States Department of Agriculture
Rural Development



SEWAGE SYSTEM RENOVATION AND EXTENSION

Earth Day Event - April 23, 2003
Village of Simsboro, Louisiana

RUSTON, April 23, 2003 - The U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development observed Earth Day by presenting \$740,700 in Rural Utilities Service loan and grant funds to the Village of Simsboro to renovate and extend their sewer system.

U.S. Congressman Rodney Alexander was on hand with

Rural Development State Director Michael B. Taylor to present \$740,700 to Simsboro Mayor Woodie Pritchett.

"The construction in Simsboro will bring improved sewer service to 263 residential users and extend service to nine new users," said Taylor.

RUS Loan	\$208,000
RUS Grant	\$532,700

\$740,700 Investment



Improving the Quality of Life for Rural Louisiana





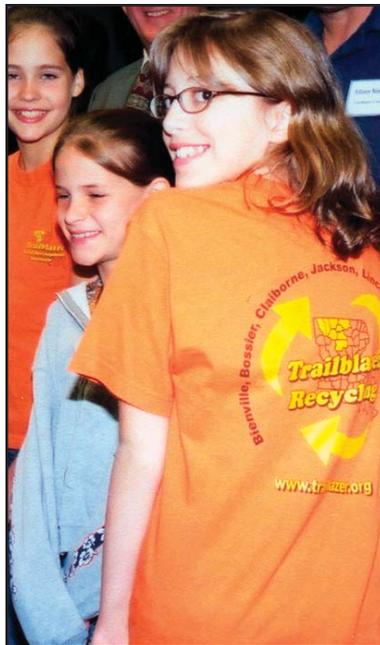
Earth Day in Louisiana
Trailblazer RC&D



United States Department of Agriculture

Rural Development

TRAILBLAZER RC&D MOVES FORWARD IN GRANT PROCESS



Earth Day Event April 23, 2003 Ruston, Louisiana

RUSTON, April 23, 2003 - The U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development observed Earth Day by announcing that Trailblazer RC&D of Ruston, Louisiana, has been selected to proceed with their application for \$100,000 in Rural Development solid waste management grant funding for their very successful multi-parish recycling program. This selection is a result of a nationwide competition for these grant funds. It is the only project of this type selected in Louisiana.

\$100,000 Investment



**Reducing Solid
Waste in
Louisiana's
Landfills**

Success in Recycling

Since 1998, the Trailblazer RC&D Recycling Program is responsible for keeping 320 tons of collected newspaper out of area landfills; maintaining 50 recycling locations; and providing information on proper solid waste management to over 8,000 students.

**Reduce, Reuse,
Recycle**



Earth Day in Louisiana
City of Kaplan



United States Department of Agriculture
Rural Development

SEWAGE SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS

Earth Day Event
April 23, 2003
City of Kaplan, Louisiana

BATON ROUGE, April 23, 2003 - The U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development and Louisiana Office of Community Development observed Earth Day presenting millions of dollars in loan and grant funds to the City of Kaplan to improve their sewer system.

Governor Mike Foster, Senator John Breaux, and Division of Administration Commissioner Mark C. Drennen joined Hilda G. Legg, Administrator of the Rural Utilities Service-Washington, DC, and Michael B. Taylor Rural Development State Director to present \$5.8 million in loan and grant funds to Kaplan Mayor Levi Schexnider-\$4.8 million in Rural Development loan and grant funds and \$1 million in Louisiana Community Development Block Grant funds.

"This construction will improve sewer service to 2,019 residential users, 165 commercial users, and seven industrial users," said Taylor.



RUS Loan	\$2,500,000
RUS Grant	\$2,305,200
Other	\$1,000,000



**Improving
Water Quality**

**Meeting Federal
Regulations**

**\$4.8 Million
Rural Development
Investment**

**and
\$1 Million
State Investment**





Earth Day in Louisiana
Administrator's Visit



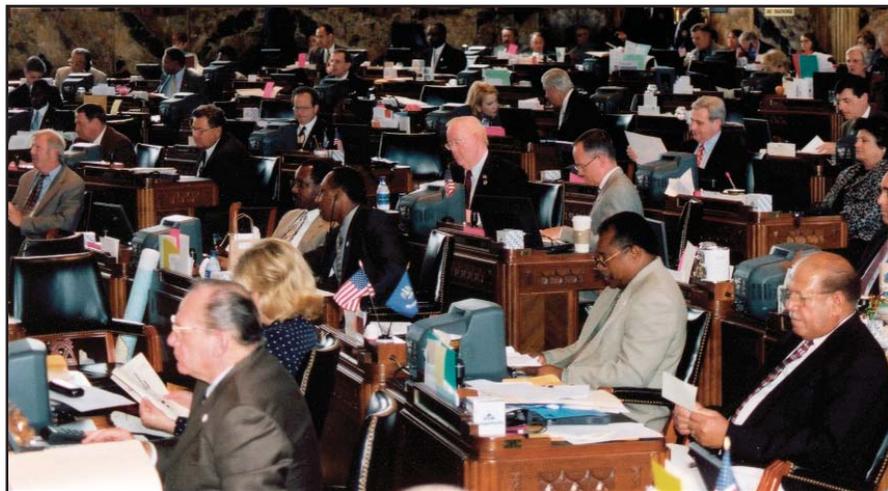
United States Department of Agriculture

Rural Development



RUS ADMINISTRATOR ADDRESSES LOUISIANA LEGISLATURE

**Earth Day Event
April 23, 2003
Baton Rouge, Louisiana**



BATON ROUGE, April 23, 2003 - Marking Earth Day in a big way, Rural Utilities Service Administrator Hilda G. Legg was invited to address the Louisiana State House of Representatives.

During her comments, Legg announced the selection of 45 rural water and wastewater community infrastructure projects in 29 states. These selected projects reflect a total investment of \$105 million in USDA Rural

Development loan and grant funds across the nation.

Legg reported that over \$10 million of this Earth Day funding has been presented to communities and organizations in Louisiana.

Legg received a standing ovation from the legislators following this announcement.



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