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NEWS RELEASE

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USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT HELPS FUND NEW LAWN TRACTOR MOWER FOR THE CITY OF LINNEUS

Janie Dunning, Missouri State Director for USDA Rural Development, announced funding of \$5,830 to the City of Linneus to help purchase a new lawn tractor mower with a 60 inch deck to maintain the City's property. A certificate representing the funding was presented to the City during a funding celebration held on Monday, December 6th at Linneus City Hall.

The grant funds originated from Rural Development's Community Facility Grant program. These community facility grants provide funding for essential public improvements to public bodies and non-profit corporations with substantial ties to the local community. The remainder of the cost of the lawn tractor mower (\$4,770) was provided by the City of Linneus.

Rural Development worked with Jim Anderson, Mayor of Linneus, and Patty Brandes, City Clerk, in the application phase of funding for the project. Mayor Anderson expressed appreciation to Rural Development for funding of the new lawn tractor mower, as the existing lawn tractor mower was over 15 years old and beyond repair. The City was not in a financial position to purchase the equipment without the assistance of USDA Rural Development.

"I'm pleased to hear that with the help of USDA/Rural Development's competitive grant funds, the City of Linneus will have a lawn tractor mower to maintain the landscape of the City," U.S. Senator Claire McCaskill said. "Proper maintenance equipment plays an essential part in preserving the character of our communities."

"Funding this lawn mower for city maintenance work indicates that Rural Development is committed to the future of rural communities," said Dunning. "Appreciation is extended to our federal elected officials supporting Rural Development. They have been strong proponents for the necessary funding for essential services for rural Missourians."

USDA Rural Development's mission is to deliver programs in a way that will support increasing economic opportunity and improve the quality of life of rural residents. As a venture capital entity, Rural Development provides equity and technical assistance to finance and foster growth in homeownership, business development, and critical community and technology infrastructure. Further information on rural programs is available by visiting USDA's web site at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/mo/> or contact Danny L. Jackson, at the Chillicothe Rural Development office, 1100 Morton Parkway, Chillicothe, Missouri 64601 or by calling 660-646-6222 ext. 4.

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