



# NEWS RELEASE

Contact: Jeremy E. Brady, Rural Development Manager at 660-582-7421 (extension #4)

## USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT FUNDS \$65,500 IMPROVEMENTS AT HUNDLEY-WHALEY RESEARCH CENTER

Greg Branum, Missouri State Director for USDA Rural Development, presented \$65,500 to the University of Missouri in a Mock Check Ceremony on September 5, 2007. The funds will be used to construct a new service building at the University of Missouri Hundley-Whaley Research Center in Albany.

The \$65,500 grant was made through USDA Rural Development's Rural Business Enterprise Grant program. This program is available to finance and help foster development of business enterprises in rural areas.

"Today's announcement highlights the local commitment and the leadership of the USDA Rural Development staff. They are to be commended for their dedication and hard work in making this project a reality," said U.S. Senator Kit Bond. "The entire community will benefit from these efforts."

"I'm so pleased that these federal grant dollars are coming to Missouri," U.S. Senator Claire McCaskill said. "The facility improvements made possible by this grant will help ensure that our state remains at the forefront of agricultural research."

"This funding will support on-going education for producers and business in the area," said Congressman Sam Graves. "We have the safest, most abundant food supply in the world because of agricultural science and this facility will help bring that knowledge from the classroom into the field."

Tom Payne, Dean of the College of Agriculture for the University of Missouri, said, "We are very pleased that the USDA Rural Development agency is partnering with our Hundley-Whaley Center and MU to help us serve agriculture and the rural communities here in NW Missouri. We're particularly pleased to work with Director Branum. The support will facilitate the efforts of our College and MU Extension."



Pictured from left to right: Stan Wolfe, Rural Development Area Specialist; Jeremy Brady, Rural Development Manager; Greg Branum, State Director Rural Development; Mike Thomson, Missouri State Representative, 4th District; Derek Brown, Albany City Manager; Dean Brookshier, Deputy Chief of Staff for U.S. Congressman Sam Graves; Marc Linit, Associate Dean, University of Missouri College of Agriculture; Brad Lager, Missouri State Senator, 12th District; Richard Mullock, Chairman Hundley-Whaley Advisory Board; Neal Miller, Area Director Rural Development; Bruce Burdick, Superintendent, University of Missouri Hundley-Whaley Research Center; Don Null, Former Head of Hundley-Whaley Research Center; Jim Guest, Missouri State Representative, 5th District; Jim Whorton, Missouri State Representative, 3rd District; Tom Payne, Dean, University of Missouri College of Agriculture; John Poehlmann, Asst. Director, University of Missouri Ag Experiment Stations

The Hundley-Whaley Research Center is the University of Missouri's primary applied research site for Northwest Missouri corn and soybean producers. Current research involves crop protection, current advances in biotechnology in agriculture, value added components in crop production and variety evaluations. Each year a field day is held in September at the Hundley-Whaley facility which draws hundreds of farmers and business people from across the area to observe and learn about new technology and practices in the agricultural sector.

Agriculture, in the form of crop and livestock production, still remains the primary form of economic development and income in the rural areas of Northwest Missouri. Through the research conducted at the Hundley-Whaley facility, many agricultural related jobs are either preserved or created in Northwest Missouri.

"This kind of assistance mirrors USDA Rural Development's mission and President Bush's initiative of being committed to the future of rural communities," said Branum. "Appreciation is extended to our federal elected officials for supporting USDA Rural Development. They have been strong proponents for the necessary funding for essential services for rural Missourians."

Anyone interested in obtaining information regarding assistance available through USDA Rural Development may visit the homepage at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/mo/> or can contact Jeremy E. Brady, Rural Development Manager, at the Maryville Local Office of USDA Rural Development at 502 W. South Hills Drive, Suite 103, Maryville, Missouri 64468 or by calling 660-582-7421 (extension 4).

**"Committed to the future of rural communities."**

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