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NEWS RELEASE

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USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT HELPS FUND A USED MOTOR GRADER FOR PURDIN SPECIAL ROAD DISTRICT ASSOCIATION

Janie Dunning, Missouri State Director for USDA Rural Development, announced funding of \$109,000 to the Purdin Special Road District Association to help purchase a used Motor Grader to maintain the District's roads. A certificate representing the funding was presented to the Road District during a funding celebration held on Monday, December 6th at Purdin.

The loan and grant funds originated from Rural Development's Community Facility program. The community facility loans and 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 motor grader (\$10,000) was provided by the Purdin Special Road District Association.

Rural Development worked with Jeff Thomas, President, and Sandy Hollon, Sec-Treas, in the application phase of funding for the project. Both Thomas and Hollon expressed appreciation to Rural Development for funding of the motor grader, as the District did not have a grader at this time to maintain their roads. The Road District was not in a financial position to purchase the motor grader without the assistance of USDA Rural Development.

"I'm pleased to hear that with help of competitive funds awarded by USDA/Rural Development, the Purdin Special Road District will be able to purchase a motor grader," U.S. Senator Claire McCaskill said. "The proper road maintenance equipment is vital to the safety of area drivers."

"Funding of this road grader for maintaining the roads is another example of Rural Development being 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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