



Committed to the future of rural communities.

NEWS RELEASE

RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROVIDES FIRST STATE BANK \$1,450,000 LOAN GUARANTEE

USDA Rural Development delivered a Loan Note Guarantee to First State Bank in the amount of \$1,450,000 which guaranteed a loan to TRIO Inc. d/b/a Cassville True Value Hardware on October 2, 2006. Participation in the USDA's Business and Industry Loan Program allowed the purchase of an existing building to be converted into a hardware and home center and created 10 new jobs and saved 5 jobs for this existing business. The hardware, run by a local family, is of "true value" to this

rural community offering hometown service with honesty and integrity to the residents and other businesses in the area.

Landon Fletcher, Vice President of First State Bank of Purdy, stated, "The bank has enjoyed working with the owners of Cassville True Value Hardware in support of their business expansion, new jobs, and economic growth for the area."

Greg Branum, Missouri State Director for USDA Rural Development said, "Special thanks are extended to our federal elected officials including U.S. Senators "Kit" Bond and Jim Talent plus U.S. Representative Roy Blunt for making available federal monies for funding this kind of project providing essential services for the community." Branum added, "This kind of assistance mirrors USDA Rural Development's mission and President Bush's initiative of being committed to the future of rural communities."

Anyone seeking more information about this or any other USDA Rural Development program may visit the homepage at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/mo/> or by contacting Jerry L. Finley, Area Director, at 688 S. State Hwy B, Suite 400, Springfield, MO 65802, or by calling (417) 831-5246 extension 5 or by email to jerry.finley@mo.usda.gov.



Left to Right: Front Row: Steve McIntosh, Field Representative for U.S. Representative Roy Blunt; Ron Thomas, Rural Development Manager; Kathy and Larry Westpheling, True Value Owners; Land Fletcher, Vice President of First State Bank of Purdy; Stacy Burks, District Office Director for U.S. Senator Kit Bond; Jerry Finley, USDA Rural Development Area Director; Larry Moenning, Executive Vice President of First State Bank of Monett

Second Row: Dennis Morse, True Value Retail Consultant; Steve Brookhart, True Value Retail Development; Bill VanEaton, Tindle's Feed; Chris Stone, Field Representative for U.S. Senator Jim Talent; Ann Hall, President of First State Bank; Garrett Whitley, First State Bank; Randy Henderson, Vice President of First State Bank of Purdy

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To file a complaint of discrimination write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Ave., S.W., Washington, D. C. 20250-9410 or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD).