



# RURAL DEVELOPMENT MISSOURI

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## BUILDING COMMUNITIES

### FY 2004 NOFA RENEWABLE ENERGY AND ENERGY EFFICIENCY

On May 5, 2004, the United States Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, announced the availability of up to \$22.8 million in competitive grant funds for fiscal year (FY) 2004 to purchase renewable energy systems and make energy improvements for agricultural producers and rural small businesses. In order to be eligible for grant funds, the agricultural producer or rural small business must demonstrate financial need. The grant request must not exceed 25% of the eligible project costs. Applications for grants for FY 2004 must be sent to the Missouri Rural Development State Office and must be postmarked by July 19, 2004. For more information on this funding opportunity, please refer to the corrected NOFA dated May 17, 2004, by visiting <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/rd/nofas/index.html> or contact the state office at 573-876-0995.

### FY 2003 RECIPIENT



Pictured left to right: David Pierce, State Representative, Steve Flick, owner, D.J. Davis, State Representative, Danny Pfeifer, Senator Jim Talent's office, Jennifer Day, Congressman Kit Bond's office, and Bob Hagedorn, Representative Ike Skelton's office.

Flick Seed Co., a Native American Owned Business of Kingsville, was named the recipient of a \$99,500 Renewable Energy Systems Grant Program from USDA,

Rural Development for renewable energy systems and energy efficiency improvements. The grant funding was requested to develop Missouri Bioenergy, a renewable energy project that will recycle seed hulls into pellets that can be used as fuel by utility companies. The application for the grant funding was prepared and submitted by the Warrensburg Area Economic Development Corporation.

The grant funded approximately 25 percent of the cost of the development of the new production facility, which will be located at the current business site for Flick Seed Company, 1764 NW County Road 50, Kingsville. Flick Seed Co. has been owned and operated by Steve Flick, of the Chickahominy Tribe, for over 20 years. The company processes different types of Missouri-grown seeds, most of which are grown by contract production within a 150-mile radius of Kingsville.

This is an excellent example of the development of a new business venture that brings together the resources of the agricultural business community with the development of renewable resources. Collaboration and partnerships within the private sector and the community not-for-profit organization has helped to bring federal tax dollars back to this community.

### GRANT OPPORTUNITIES WEB SITES

There are a couple of web sites that you may find helpful in researching available funding grants for your communities and projects. They are:

<http://www.fedgrants.gov> - This site provides a variety of federal grants that cover the urban and rural areas.

<http://www.nal.usda.gov/ric/ricpubs/funding/federalfund/ff.html> - This site was developed by the Rural Information Center and includes Federal Funding Sources for Rural Areas.

Come visit Missouri Rural Development on the World Wide Web at:

<http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/mo/index.html>

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## COMMUNITY ACHIEVEMENT DEXTER, MO.



Back row left to right: Tim Aslin-First State Bank & Trust, Scott Kinchen-US Bank, Ed Crowe-First National Bank, John Vines-Union Planters Bank, Bill Aslin-Union Planters Bank, Gary Capps-IDA, Darlene Shelton-Chamber Development President. Front row left to right: Joe Weber-Mayor, Tom Frazier-Arvin plant manager, Greg Branun-USDA, Jo Ann Emerson-US Representative, Norman Harty-First Commercial Bank, Brett Dorton-First Commercial Bank, Jack Huffman-First Midwest Bank, and Bill Boone-Southern Missouri Bank.

Dexter is located in Stoddard County and has an unemployment rate above the state average and the median household income is below state average. With the leadership of the Dexter Chamber of Commerce Development, Inc. along with the participation of many partners and community support, Dexter has taken steps to improve jobs for the area. Dexter Chamber of Commerce Development, Inc., a not-for-profit corporation, has secured a guaranteed Business and Industry loan in the amount of \$2,585,000 to purchase a 223,600 square foot industrial building and is remodeling it to fit the needs of Arvin Meritor, Inc. Arvin Meritor OE, LLC is a global provider of a broad range of integrated systems, modules and components for the automotive industry. The company's four largest clients are Daimler Chrysler, Ford, Volkswagen and Volvo.

First Community Bank was the lead lender in securing the \$2,585,000 Guaranteed Business and Industry loan through USDA, Rural Development. First Midwest Bank, First National Bank, US Bank, Union Planters Bank, Southern Missouri Bank and First State Bank and trust were all participating lenders in the project. The Stoddard County Industrial Development Authority contributed \$416,000 for renovation and maintenance of the building and they were able to obtain a \$1 million grant from the Economic Development Administration.

This project will have a major impact on the economy of the area by directly increasing employment opportunities in Stoddard County and the surrounding areas. Projections indicate the creation of 259 new jobs along with the retention of 185 jobs for a total employment of 444 full time jobs in 2004. These jobs average \$9.60 per hour for Class 3 employees and \$14.55 per hour for Class 6 employees.

This is truly a community-wide effort. Lenders, county officials, city officials and the USDA, Rural Development, have partnered to keep jobs in this area. The Dexter Chamber of Commerce Development, Inc. has made a strong commitment by securing this loan. Likewise, Arvin Meritor has committed to a long term lease on the building. Because of this community collaboration and commitment to community, new jobs, retention of jobs and the expansion of Dexter's major industry will lead to increased economic growth for Dexter and the surrounding areas.

## NEW LOOK FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT!

You may notice that this newsletter has a different look. This is due to the recent roll out of USDA Rural Development's new marketing and "brand" image: *USDA Rural Development – Committed to the Future of Rural Communities*.

During the past several decades, USDA Rural Development has gone through numerous changes – evolving through Rural Electrification Administration, Rural Development Administration, Farmers Home Administration, and Rural Economic and Community Development. This has created an enormous challenge in communicating the benefits of our programs.

As a result, USDA Rural Development has developed a new brand and renewed its outreach to rural communities. It is a committed effort that reinforces the agency's mission and goals to various audiences across the country. The new logo depicts a typical rural landscape, complete with a water tower and mix of buildings all nestled in a rolling green hillside. The new tagline, *Committed to the Future of Rural Communities*, will help us communicate who we are and what we can do for rural Americans. This brand also reinforces a commitment by everyone in our organization to better serve our customers – rural Americans.

USDA, Rural Development programs assist rural communities in a variety of ways. Our programs consist of a variety of loan, loan guarantee and grant programs, plus technical assistance in the areas of business and industry, cooperative development, rural housing, community facilities, water and waste disposal, electrification and telecommunications, including distance learning and telemedicine. Information about these programs can be obtained by visiting USDA Rural Development's web site at: <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/mo/whatwedo.htm> or contact your local Rural Development office.

Missouri USDA Rural Development employees are *Committed to the Future of Rural Communities*.