

USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT NEBRASKA

Contact: Vicki Ritterling, Public Affairs Specialist
(402) 437-5563, vicki.ritterling@ne.usda.gov

USDA Rural Development Provides Over \$59.5 Million To Rural Nebraskans

-- Fiscal Year 2000 Annual Report Released

Lincoln, Neb., Jan. 11, 2001— The U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development in Nebraska has released its Fiscal Year 2000 Annual Report showing over \$59.5 million in assistance being provided to rural Nebraska.

"Fiscal Year 2000 was a very successful year for USDA Rural Development in Nebraska," remarked Jim Otto, Nebraska's state director for USDA Rural Development. Otto continued, "As in past years, great emphasis and focus was placed on the leveraging of dollars, partnering, and the sharing of resources, enabling more rural Nebraskans to be served. This will continue throughout Fiscal Year 2001 and beyond. It takes the efforts of many (local, state, federal and other partners) to enhance rural development in Nebraska."

Successes shown in the report include:

- 730 individuals/families became homeowners with over \$37.6 million in funding.
- Safe and sanitary water & wastewater disposal was afforded to over 11,000 rural households with funding in excess of \$9.5 million.
- Close to \$5.5 million in funding impacted approximately 171,000 rural Nebraskans through new medical facilities, child care centers, group homes and more.
- Over \$3 million in loan funds impacted 178 jobs in rural Nebraska.
- A new 8-unit farm labor housing complex to be built in Alliance for migrant workers and the homeless with approximately \$840,000 in funding.
- 14 counties in northeast Nebraska to receive assistance for small businesses and industries through a \$750,000 revolving loan fund.
- 97 rural homeowners were assisted with essential home repairs totaling approximately \$480,000.
- 8 rural rental housing complexes received needed updates through approximately \$469,000 of funding.
- \$349,700 in telemedicine grant funds will assist 12 counties with improved health care.
- Over 1,200 students and more than 25,000 rural Nebraskans will benefit through a distance learning grant of \$277,605.
- 7 homes will receive repairs from housing preservation grant funds of \$40,000.
- Over 20 cooperatives/value-added groups were assisted through various stages of development.

USDA Rural Development is a credit arm of the U.S. Department of Agriculture whose mission is to provide financial assistance to rural communities who are unable to secure acceptable credit elsewhere for housing, community facilities, and business development. Assistance provided can be in the form of grants, direct loans, and guarantees on loans made by commercial lenders.

For further information on USDA Rural Development programs in Nebraska or for a copy of the Annual Report, please contact your local USDA Rural Development Office located in the phone directory under U.S. Government. You can also contact the Lincoln State Office at 402-437-5551 or write USDA Rural Development Rm. 152 Federal Building 100 Centennial Mall North Lincoln, Nebraska 68508-3888. Visit our website at www.rurdev.usda.gov/ne/ for additional program information or to find your local USDA Rural Development Office.

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