

## USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT NEBRASKA

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Contact: Glen Gatz, Rural Development Specialist  
(308) 237-3118  
glen.gatz@ne.usda.gov  
John Hulinsky, Chairperson  
(308) 738-2141

### **Ashton Residents to Benefit from Water System Improvements**

Kearney, Nebraska, July 9-The Village of Ashton is the recipient of \$165,000 in loan and \$359,000 in grant funds from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Development. The funds will be used to make needed improvements to the village's present water system, ensuring for the delivery of safe and sanitary water to the residents of Ashton. Leveraged with the USDA dollars will be \$250,000 from the Nebraska Department of Economic Development and an applicant contribution of \$60,000.

The USDA Rural Development loan will be repaid over 40 years at 4.50 percent interest.

Glen Gatz, rural development specialist for USDA Rural Development stated, "This water improvement project is vital to the community of Ashton." Gatz added, "Currently, the village's water system is out of compliance with the regulations of the Nebraska Department of Health & Human Services (HHS). Additionally, the present water system does not meet the needs of the village. With completion of the proposed water system improvement project, the community of Ashton will have a compliant water system, equipped to meet the water demands of its residents."

Proposed water system improvements include the installation of new water well and transmission line, repairs to the Village water tower and improvements to the distribution system.

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.

The USDA funds were received through the Water & Waste Disposal Loan and Grant Program of USDA Rural Development. For additional information regarding USDA Rural Development Loan and Grant Programs, contact Glen Gatz in the USDA Rural Development Office, 4009 N. 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue Kearney, Neb. 68848 or phone (308) 237-3118. Website: [www.rurdev.usda.gov/ne/](http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/ne/).

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