



**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
RURAL DEVELOPMENT**

Rm. 152 Federal Building 100 Centennial Mall North Lincoln, Neb. 68508  
(402) 437-5551 (Phone) (402) 437-5093 (TDY) (402) 437-5408 (Fax)

Contact: Vicki A. Ritterling  
Public Affairs Specialist  
(402) 437-5563

**USDA OFFICIALS VISIT SITE OF "HERE WEE GROW"**

**Sidney, Neb., March 7, 2002** – Mike Neruda, Deputy Under Secretary for Rural Development accompanied Jim Barr, USDA Rural Development State Director in Nebraska for a check presentation to the Cheyenne County Child Development Center in Sidney. An USDA Rural Development Community Facilities loan of over \$1.2 million assisted in the financing of the "Here Wee Grow" childcare facility which is presently under construction.

"Quality child care is crucial to rural communities," stated Neruda. "Here Wee Grow will bring a safe and enjoyable place for children to spend their time while away from their families, and in turn working adults will have peace of mind in knowing their children are being well cared for."

"Here Wee Grow" will provide childcare services to approximately 150 children ranging in age from infancy to 13 years. The community of Sidney, at the present time, has one day care center and 21 in-home childcare providers. With the growing workforce, the demand for day care is increasing, Here Wee Grow will assist in meeting this demand.

USDA Rural Development loan funds totaling \$1,265,000 will be leveraged with, Department of Health and Human Services' Child Care Grant monies of \$10,000, a land donation worth \$25,400 from the Western Nebraska Community College, with local donations comprising the balance of the funding for this near \$1.4 million project.

USDA Rural Development serves as the lead federal entity for rural development needs and administers financial and technical assistance through three agencies: Rural Housing Service, Rural Business-Cooperative Service and Rural Utilities Service. Further information on USDA Rural Development can be obtained by contacting any USDA Service Center or by visiting USDA's website at [www.rurdev.usda.gov](http://www.rurdev.usda.gov).

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