

## USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT NEBRASKA

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### Deputy Under Secretary Tours USDA Funded Facility

**Wahoo, Neb., June 20-**Deputy Under Secretary for Rural Development Mike Neruda visited today the new 5,000 square foot office building that is home to the Nebraska Rural Water Association (NeRWA) in Wahoo, Neb. The facility was made possible through an USDA Rural Development loan of \$486,000 that was approved last year.

"I take great pride in seeing USDA Rural Development's dollars at work," stated Neruda. "Facilities, such as the Nebraska Rural Water Association's, promote the well-being of a community and reflect one of many projects that Rural Development's Community Facility program can assist with."

Located in Wahoo Industries Airpark, the NeRWA's new office space consists of a training/board room, bay/storage area for equipment and vehicles, waiting/reception area, kitchen, nine offices for technical support staff and space for file storage and office equipment.

A year ago, NeRWA was operating out of leased space located at the end of a storage facility with only limited parking available, insufficient room for staff, and no training room. One year later, it is a completely different scenario thanks to USDA loan dollars which constructed, purchased equipment and furnishings for and paid professional fees associated with the development of the facility.

The NeRWA is responsible for training and assisting the communities of Nebraska with the operation of their water and sanitary sewer systems. They also provide an extensive operator training program, which allows utility operators to maintain their licenses to operate water and sanitary sewer systems within the State of Nebraska.

USDA Rural Development serves as the lead federal entity for rural development needs and administers program 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 web site at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/>.

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