



NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture • Office of Communications • 1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20250-1300 • Voice: (202) 720-4623 • Email: oc.news@usda.gov • Web: <http://www.usda.gov>

Release No. 0266.02

Alisa Harrison (202) 720-4623
Taylor Oldroyd (202) 720-1019

24 STATES SELECTED FOR \$6.1 MILLION IN RURAL DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE

WASHINGTON, June 27, 2002 – Agriculture Secretary Ann M. Veneman announced today the selection of 51 grant recipients to receive more than \$6.1 million in rural business opportunity grant funds to assist with economic development in rural areas.

“Promoting business and community development in rural areas is an important priority for the Bush Administration,” said Veneman. “These grants will provide opportunities for business expansion in rural America.”

Veneman pointed out that more than 588 businesses will benefit from the grant funds, which will create or save at least 975 jobs. USDA’s Rural Development Rural Business Opportunity Grant (RBOG) and Rural Business Enterprise Grant (RBEG) programs will provide the grants.

The following states will receive grants totaling \$6.1 million:

Arizona - \$265,221	Mississippi - \$372,923	Oklahoma - \$211,070
California - \$450,000	Missouri - \$319,999	Oregon - \$250,000
Florida - \$399,600	Montana - \$63,260	South Carolina - \$163,450
Georgia - \$183,279	Nebraska - \$50,000*	South Dakota - \$100,000
Illinois - \$874,500	New Mexico - \$200,960	Tennessee - \$288,247
Kentucky - \$398,000	New York - \$250,000	Utah - \$46,545
Louisiana - \$50,000	North Carolina - \$300,000	Washington - \$149,271
Maine - \$445,000	North Dakota - \$236,290	West Virginia - \$92,93

A complete list of the individual grant recipients can be found at
<http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/rd/newsroom/news.htm>

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>.

#

*Nebraska - \$50,000

Santee Sioux Tribe of Nebraska, Village of Santee, Nebraska – A \$50,000 grant for a marketing study of an industrial tract located on the Santee Reservation. 10 jobs created.