



**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: Robert Prochaska, Rural Development Specialist
(402) 371-5350
robert.prochaska@ne.usda.gov

Andrew Andersen, Board Chairperson
(402) 396-3563

USDA DOLLARS IMPROVE PILGER'S SEWER SYSTEM

Norfolk, Neb., Feb. 13-The village of Pilger has been approved for more than \$1.3 million in United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Development loan and grant funds. These dollars, will be used in conjunction with \$250,000 from the Nebraska Department of Economic Development, to allow for safe and dependable sanitary sewer services to Pilger's 378 residents.

"The \$1.6 million sewer improvement project will bring the village's treatment facility and collection system back into compliance with the Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality's regulations," stated Robert Prochaska, rural development specialist for USDA Rural Development. "Additionally through this project, sewer services will be extended to residents in west Pilger."

The existing mechanical wastewater treatment facility dates back to 1969. Due to aging, the treatment facility's components are in need of replacement including the existing lift station. As a result, raw wastewater in the spring is bypassed to the Elkhorn River due to the plant's inability to handle the flow. The southern one-third of Pilger's present sewer collection system dates back to 1910 and requires additional maintenance and repairs as the sewer lines are failing and are plagued with high infiltration, plugging and ground settlement. The residents in west Pilger, not served with a sewer collection system, use septic tanks which are failing and are discharging raw waste into adjoining road ditches.

The proposed sewer system project entails the construction of a new collection system in the southern and western portions of the village and the development of a multiple cell lagoon treatment facility. Through these improvements, the village's sewer system will meet required state health and safety standards.

The USDA \$729,100 loan will be repaid over 40 years at 4.5 percent interest. Both the USDA loan and the \$595,900 grant are funded through the USDA Rural Development Water and Waste Disposal Loan and Grant program.

USDA Rural Development is a credit arm of the USDA 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.

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For information contact Robert Prochaska in the USDA Rural Development Office, 1909 Vicki Lane Suite 103, Norfolk, Neb. 68701 or phone (402) 371-5350. Website: <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/ne/>.

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