



**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
RURAL DEVELOPMENT**

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**HUMBOLDT AND SALEM ADDED TO COUNTYWIDE WARNING SYSTEM
VIA USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT FUNDS**

Lincoln, Neb., September 9, 2003--The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Development awarded this month, \$23,000 in grant funds to the City of Humboldt and \$11,300 to the Village of Salem. These monies leveraged with \$7,688 from Humboldt and \$4,044 from Salem in cash donations will purchase new early warning systems benefiting 1,079 rural residents.

“The new siren systems are greatly needed in these towns. The existing sirens are no longer operable and parts are getting hard to find. The City of Humboldt will add a siren, so now all their residents will be alerted of adverse weather.” stated Janice Stopak, rural development specialist for Nebraska USDA Rural Development.

The existing sirens of both Humboldt and Salem will be replaced by new \$15,344 warning systems allowing them to join the countywide system being developed by the Richardson County Emergency Management Center located in Falls City. In addition, Humboldt is installing a second new siren to alert the city’s growing population. The countywide system will improve the timeliness of advanced warnings, proper maintenance and testing as it will give the Richardson County Emergency Management Center the ability to control the individual communities' systems as well as each community access to control their own local system.

USDA funds were provided through the USDA Rural Development Community Facilities Grant program. For additional information contact Janice Stopak at 6030 S. 58th St. Suite B, Lincoln, Neb. 68516 or phone (402) 423-9683, (402) 437-5093 (TDY).
Visit <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/ne/>.

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