



NEWS RELEASE

United States Department Of Agriculture Rural Development
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USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT ASSISTS NEMAHA COUNTY DEVELOPMENT ALLIANCE IN BRINGING ENTREPRENEURSHIP EDUCATION TO LOCAL YOUTH

Auburn, Neb., September 8, 2004—The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Development presented the Nemaha County Development Alliance (NCDA) with a \$31,300 symbolic funding check today in Auburn that will assist in providing technical assistance to the local young population through the establishment of the Nemaha County Youth Entrepreneurship Program (NCYEP). The NCYEP will encourage youth to invest, work and reside within their county after their education years.

“On behalf of the NCDA, I would like to thank USDA Rural Development for the funding we have received to help us in our entrepreneurship efforts,” stated Jed Wagner, executive director for NCDA. “We believe that successful entrepreneurship is a key community economic development strategy that creates jobs, helps preserve rural communities, and aids in reversing long-term declining population trends.”

The Youth Entrepreneurship Program will help create local career job opportunities for Nemaha County’s young people, allowing them to live and work, raise families, and contribute during their lifetimes to Nemaha County’s local economy and quality of life.

“In order to stimulate local entrepreneurship, children must be encouraged to fully understand the philosophies, mechanics, risks and rewards of creating, owning and operating a business anywhere, preferably in their home county,” stated Wagner. “Nemaha County students will have more options in life if they learn to appreciate that entrepreneurship is a viable method of creating real jobs for themselves, their families and others and that it is also a career choice that can allow them to maintain a rural lifestyle throughout their adult years.”

The NCYEP will consist of in class instruction, provided by business teachers from School Districts #23 and #29, to create and deliver a full service one-on-one mentorship and assistance program designed to directly assist local young people in exploring, researching and creating new Nemaha County businesses, or acquiring existing local businesses. Through the program it is anticipated that four jobs will be created.

“USDA Rural Development’s programs are all about keeping small communities strong and viable,” stated Jim Barr, state director for USDA Rural Development. “Today’s funding for the NCYEP supports building the business infrastructure needed to keep the youth in rural communities which is vital as they are the future of rural Nebraska.”



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NCDA is partnering with School District #23, Johnson-Brock and School District 29-Auburn, Center for Rural Entrepreneurship, Rural Enterprise Assistance Project, University of Nebraska Lincoln – Center for Applied Rural Innovation, and the Nelson Institute to provide the Youth Entrepreneurship Program. NCDA funds of \$1,650, \$7,150 in-kind labor and \$1,100 via the NebraskaEDGE program join the USDA grant of \$31,300 to fund the NCYEP.

The USDA grant was provided through the USDA Rural Development Rural Business Enterprise Grant program. For additional information contact Janet Knobel, janet.knobel@ne.usda.gov, 201 N. 25 Street Beatrice, Neb. 68310 or phone (402) 223-3125, (402) 437-5093 (TDY). Visit <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/ne/>.

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