



NEWS RELEASE

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)

Janice Stopak Lincoln, Nebraska (402) 423-9683
Mike Isernhagen, Deshler, Nebraska (402) 365-7673

THAYER COUNTY FAIRGROUND RECEIVES FUNDING FROM USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT TO ASSIST IN REBUILDING FROM TORNADOS

Lincoln, Neb., August 27, 2004—The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Development awarded this month a \$401,000 loan to the Thayer County Agricultural Society. The funds leveraged with nearly \$300,000 from outside sources will rebuild a portion of the Thayer County fairground facilities located in Deshler, Neb. destroyed by tornados last June.

“The USDA Rural Development loan will be used to construct a concession stand and an expo building, purchase event and kitchen equipment and to pay related professional fees,” stated Janice Stopak, rural development specialist for USDA Rural Development. “County fairs are at the heart of rural communities and are a tie that brings communities together annually. County fairs also help children involved in 4-H to grow by displaying their skills and abilities.”

The Thayer County Agricultural Society has rebuilt a majority of the fairgrounds. The USDA and leveraged funds will allow for the construction of a 12’ x 8’ concessions stand under the grandstand and a 75’ x 150’ expo building. These buildings are critical to the viability of the Thayer County fair as they house activities associated with the fair, 4-H and community social and cultural events. It is anticipated that the new expo building will receive greater utilization as it will be larger, meet Americans with Disabilities Act requirements and feature a larger kitchen area.

The USDA Rural Development loan will be repaid over 40 years at 4.375 percent interest. Leveraged funding of \$206,000 from the Federal Emergency Management Agency, \$55,700 from insurance proceeds along with \$34,333 from the National Emergency Management Association will provide the remaining funds needed. The \$697,033 project will benefit the 6,055 rural residents of Thayer County.

The USDA funds were awarded through the USDA Rural Development Community Facility Direct Loan program. For additional information contact Janice Stopak at janice.stopak@ne.usda.gov, 6030 S. 58th Street Suite B Lincoln, Neb. 68516 or phone (402) 423-9683, (402) 437-5093 (TDY). Visit <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/ne/>.

#

USDA Rural Development is an Equal Opportunity Lender, Provider and Employer. Complaints of discrimination should be sent to USDA, Director, OCR, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410.