



# NEWS RELEASE

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## **ORCHARD FIRE HALL RECEIVES GENERATOR AND ENERGY EFFICIENCY UPDATES**

**Orchard, Neb., May 9, 2008**— The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Development awarded a \$25,500 grant to the Village of Orchard to purchase and install a village generator and to make energy efficiency renovations to the village fire hall. The funds will be leveraged with \$8,500 from the village and fundraising donations.

“The Village of Orchard would like to take this opportunity to thank the USDA Rural Development for their assistance in obtaining the grant for our Fire Hall renovations. The Village Board as well as the community has always strived to keep our small town alive and active. Once the renovations are complete, it is our hope that residents and visitors alike will find our town more accessible and pleasurable to be in,” stated Chairperson Dennis Clifton, Village of Orchard.

The emergency generator will be permanently affixed to the village fire hall. Overhead insulated garage doors, new windows, insulation, energy efficiency lighting in the training/meeting room will be installed. The improvements will reduce utility costs for the village and allow the fire hall to act as an emergency shelter for the nearly 400 residents of Orchard during times of extended power outages.

“The improvements to the village fire hall help meet the needs of the community. USDA Rural Development takes great pleasure in assisting in energy efficiency projects that improve the quality of life for rural Nebraskans,” stated Rural Development Specialist Jolene Kasper, USDA Rural Development.

USDA Rural Development funding provided through the Community Facility Economic Impact Initiative program. For additional information contact Jolene Kasper in the Norfolk Rural Development office at (402) 371-5350, Extension 103, (402) 437-5093 (TDY); or at 1909 Vicki Lane, Suite 103, Norfolk, Nebraska. Visit <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/ne/>.

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