



NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture • Rural Development
Rm. 152 Federal Building • 100 Centennial Mall North • Lincoln, NE 68508
Phone: (402) 437-5563 • Fax: (402) 437-5408 • TDY: (402) 437-5093 • Web: <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/ne>

Vicki Schurman (402) 437-5563
Kathy Hruska (308) 254-4507 Ext. 4

RURAL DEVELOPMENT ASSISTS IN ADDITIONAL BRIDGEPORT WARNING SIRENS

BRIDGEPORT, Neb., Nov. 10, 2008— The City of Bridgeport is the recipient of a \$14,000 United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Development grant. Funds will be leveraged with \$26,215 from the City to add three outdoor warning sirens.

“A tornado that destroyed a home just south of Bridgeport this spring came unannounced to those who lived there. This made it apparent that the city’s alert system was not reaching the entire community,” stated City Administrator Bill Boyer, City of Bridgeport. “We immediately began contacting residents and performing weekly tests to see what areas of town were in need of additional coverage.”

Bridgeport’s sirens lacked battery back-up, so, in the event that power was lost it was impossible to alert residents of impending danger. The new sirens will have battery back-up allowing full time alert coverage to the entire community.

“The City will use the Rural Development grant to defray the costs of the outdoor warning sirens,” added Boyer. “The sirens have been ordered and will be installed in plenty of time to make sure that the City is fully covered when the next tornado season rolls around.”

“We are pleased to help Bridgeport with the purchase of their additional warning sirens,” stated Kathy Hruska, area specialist, USDA Rural Development. “The sirens will afford greater protection to the residents of this rural community.”

USDA Rural Development funding provided through the Community Facility Economic Impact Initiative grant program. For additional information contact Kathy Hruska in the Sidney Rural Development office at (308) 254-4507 ext. 4, (402) 437-5093 (TDY); or at 2244 Jackson-Sidney, Nebraska. Visit <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/ne/>.

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