



# NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture • Rural Development

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## CONGRESSMAN SMITH HELPS USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT DELIVER OVER \$125,000 TO RURAL NEBRASKA

**ATKINSON, Neb., October 22, 2008** – United States Congressman Adrian Smith and USDA Rural Development Nebraska State Director Scot Blehm presented ceremonial checks today to 4 recipients totaling \$125,410. The funds will enhance medical and protection services and increase energy efficiency.

“Nebraska has long been known as the home of the Good Life,” Smith said. “The future of our rural communities will be formed by the hard work and innovation of our community leaders. These projects will help strengthen our communities, and I commend all involved for their efforts to improve Nebraska.”

Community Facility Grant Recipients:

**West Holt Memorial Hospital-Atkinson-**\$67,500 leveraged with \$47,300 from the hospital to buy a Spirometer, NU Step Recumbent Stepper, sterilizer, medical lab equipment, an EKG and cauterization machine, ultrasonic cleaner, range hood fire suppression and emergency entrance signage to serve more than 1,200 rural residents. Training to staff on a new financial management system and applicable software will also be covered by the funds. In June of 2006 Rural Development provided a \$2,681,700 loan for the hospital’s renovation and addition.

**Boyd County-Butte-**\$11,900 to purchase a new 2008 Dodge Charger police sedan with rear wheel drive.

Energy Recipients:

**Olcott & Sons, Inc.-Burwell-**\$8,586 grant for HVAC, insulation and overhead doors.

**James Knust-Atkinson-**\$18,712 loan and \$18,712 grant to replace grain dryer.

“USDA Rural Development is committed to delivering the funding needed to help rural communities to succeed and remain strong,” stated Blehm. “We are pleased to report a record year in project funding which means more dollars pumped into Nebraska to keep its’ rural communities viable. I applaud the recipients here today and their active participation in securing the funding needed.”

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Committed to the future of rural communities.

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In Fiscal Year 2008, USDA Rural Development delivered more than \$189.8 million to rural Nebraska. Housing funds delivered totaled \$70.6 million, community facilities \$11 million, utilities \$22.4 million, business \$18.9 million, telecommunications \$51.3 million and electric \$15.6 million.

Contact USDA Rural Development (402) 437-5551, toll free 800-670-6553, or (402) 437-5093 (TDY).

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