



NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture • Rural Development

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USDA TO HOST ROUNDTABLE ON JOBS, ECONOMIC GROWTH

Business Owners, Residents, Community Leaders Invited to Share Ideas on Creating Jobs

LINCOLN, Neb., December 28, 2009 – USDA Rural Development State Director Maxine Moul announced today that the Nebraska state office will hold a forum on job creation, economic growth and small business credit on Friday, January 8, 2010. The forum will be from 10 a.m. to Noon CST at eight locations throughout Nebraska via video conferencing. The Nebraska event follows the Forum on Jobs and Economic Growth that President Obama hosted at the White House on December 3.

“This forum will provide an opportunity for residents, business owners and community leaders across the state to share ideas on creating jobs and economic opportunities,” Moul said.

“Government can help lay the groundwork for economic growth, but the best ideas for continued growth and job creation often come from local and community leaders. I look forward to hearing these ideas and sharing them with our national leaders.”

The forum will include business owners, residents, state and local officials, union members, non-profit organizations, community leaders, economists and other interested parties. Participants will discuss steps that can be taken to grow the economy and put Americans back to work.

The primary focus will be on ideas to accelerate job growth in rural America. Some of the topics to be discussed are:

- Exploring ways to rejuvenate and promote local businesses;
- Creating jobs by rebuilding America’s infrastructure;
- Creating new opportunities from existing ones, such as with value-added agricultural products;
- Supporting job growth among small businesses; and
- Preparing workers for 21st century jobs.

The job forum will be held via video conference at the following Nebraska locations:

Scottsbluff-Panhandle Research and Extension Center- 4502 Ave. I, Facilitators: Ingrid Battershell and Marla Marx

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Committed to the future of rural communities.

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To file a complaint of discrimination write to USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights,
1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington D.C. 20250-9410 or call (800) 795-3272
(voice), or (202) 720-6382 (TDD).

North Platte-Mid-Plains Community College-McDonald Belton Campus, Rm. 141, Facilitators: Natalie Furrow and Tom Gorman

McCook-Mid-Plains Community College-1205 E. 3rd St., McMillen Hall, Rm. 208, Facilitator: Lory Cappel

Kearney-Kearney Public Library-2020 1st Ave., Facilitators: Paul Bartlett and Brenda Darnell

Ainsworth-Ainsworth Public Library-5th & Main, Facilitator: Mary Gambill

Norfolk-Northeast Community College Lifelong Learning Ctr.-801 East Benjamin Ave. Facilitators: Dale Wemhoff and Joe Ferguson

Lincoln-NET-1800 N. 33rd St., Facilitators: Roger Meeks and Vicki Schurman

Omaha-Omaha State Office Bldg-1313 Farnam, Rm. 207, Facilitators: Cliff Mosteller and Jenny Nelson

Please RSVP as to the site you will attend and direct any questions about the event to: Vicki Schurman, 402-437-5563, vicki.schurman@ne.usda.gov. You may also post comments on the USDA Jobs Blog at <http://www.usda.gov/blog/usda/>.

Co-Conveners for the job forum are: Center for Rural Affairs; Central Community College; Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City - Omaha Branch; Mid-Plains Community College; Nebraska Bankers Association; Nebraska Business Development Center; Nebraska Chamber of Commerce and Industry; Nebraska Department of Banking; Nebraska Department of Economic Development; Nebraska Department of Labor; Nebraska Department of Revenue; Nebraska Enterprise Fund; Nebraska Ethanol Board; Nebraska Farm Bureau; Nebraska Farmers Union Nebraska Independent Community Bankers; Nebraska Investment Finance Authority; Nebraska League of Municipalities; Nebraska Resource Conservation and Development Districts; Nebraska Rural Development Commission; Nebraska Rural Enterprise Assistance Program; Nebraska Society of CPAs; Norfolk Area Chamber of Commerce; Northeast Community College; Partnership for Rural Nebraska; U.S. Small Business Administration Nebraska; University of Nebraska Rural Initiative; USDA Farm Services Agency Nebraska; USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service Nebraska; USDA Forest Service, Nebraska National Forests and Grasslands; and Western Nebraska Community College.

USDA Rural Development administers and manages more than 40 housing, business, and community infrastructure and facility programs as laid out by Congress through a network of 6,100 employees located in 500 national, state and local offices. These programs are designed to improve the economic stability of rural communities, businesses, residents, farmers and ranchers and improve the quality of life in rural America. Rural Development has an existing portfolio of more than \$125 billion in loans and loan guarantees.

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