

Thayer County Agricultural Society Receives Needed Help

Outline of Need: Thayer County Agricultural Society needed to rebuild many of its buildings after devastating tornados roared through the Thayer County Fairgrounds in Deshler, Nebraska in June of 2003.

How Rural Development Helped:

USDA Rural Development assisted the Agricultural Society with a low interest rate loan of \$401,000 to help aid in the multiple repairs that were needed.

The Society also received a grant of \$16,530 from USDA Rural Development to add a canopy to the Agricultural building. The Society contributed \$30,699 towards the canopy.



Thayer County Agriculture Building

The Results: Within two years the rebuilding process had begun and the loan was providing the needed financing for the reconstruction of a concession stand and expo center. The funding also helped to purchase equipment to replace what was destroyed for the event center and kitchen. This funding was combined with insurance proceeds of \$55,700 and disaster funds from both Nebraska Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) and Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) totaling \$240,333. The total project cost for the construction and equipment was \$697,033.

The Thayer County fairground is once again fully operational after the tornados destroyed everything within its path. The devastation that they caused is no longer apparent. The buildings have been rebuilt, a canopy has been added to the agricultural building, and many other improvements have been completed, including a larger expo center that complied with the Americans with Disabilities Act requirements and a larger kitchen area.

The Thayer County fairgrounds benefit the 6,055 rural residents of Thayer County and the Thayer County Agricultural Society feels that there will be greater utilization of the grounds. These buildings are critical for the fairgrounds to thrive and because of funding provided by USDA Rural Development the fairgrounds will be able to continue with the services they offer the county.

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