



Committed to the future of rural communities.

Kansas—Rural Housing Service

# Community Building

## USDA Helps Greensburg Rebuild The Big Well

### Outline Of Need:

On May 4, 2007, a 1.7 mile-wide category F-5 tornado destroyed approximately 95 percent of Greensburg, Kansas. The Big Well Visitor's Center, which is the largest tourist attraction for the city, was completely destroyed by the tornado.

### How Rural Development Helped:

USDA Rural Development helped finance several projects in Greensburg including: housing, water infrastructure, city and county government buildings, and the newest project the Big Well Museum. Through the Community Facilities Program, the city received a \$1 million loan and \$2 million grant to help rebuild the museum.

### The Results:

The Big Well Museum will be reestablished as a cultural tourist attraction and financial resource for the city. Inside the museum will be exhibition spaces and a gateway to see and experience the World's Largest Hand Dug Well. Construction of the museum began in September and is expected to be completed by Spring 2012.



## Fast Facts

**Program:** Community Facilities

**Investment:** \$1 million Community Facilities Loan  
\$1.845 million Community Facilities Grant  
\$155,000 Economic Impact Initiative Grant

**Partners:** City of Greensburg Public Building Commission,  
Federal Emergency Management Agency and  
Kansas Department of Emergency Management

**Congressional District:** 1—Huelskamp

**Demographics:** Rural Population—777

### Impact:

- Greensburg will be able to open a new museum featuring The Big Well, as well as information about the 2007 tornado

### Top Photo:

Members of the Greensburg Public Building Commission gathered for the Big Well ground breaking ceremony on September 16, 2011.

### Bottom Photo:

The F-5 tornado that tore through Greensburg destroyed the Big Well visitor's center leaving behind lots of debris. The new visitor's center will encompass The Big Well, as well as information about the 2007 tornado that leveled the city.

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