



# NEWS RELEASE

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## USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT ACTING ALASKA STATE DIRECTOR RECOGNIZES TWO EMPLOYEES FOR DECADES OF FEDERAL SERVICE

**Contact: Chad Padgett: (907) 761-7705**

PALMER, Alaska, September 4, 2008 - Chad Padgett, acting Alaska state director for USDA Rural Development has recognized two employees for their years of government service. Kim Wood of North Pole received a certificate and pin marking 25 years of service and Nancy Hayes of Wasilla received a 20 year certificate and pin. Both were recognized during Rural Development's yearly "all employees" meeting in late August in Anchorage.

"Mrs. Wood and Mrs. Hayes are to be commended for their long years of Federal service; they both provide service to the full spectrum of our clients, from financial institutions and businesses to homeowners and apartment managers." Padgett said. "USDA Rural Development provides a broad range of programs for the residents of rural Alaska, and Kim and Nancy both have a working knowledge of all of our program areas."

Wood began her Federal service in 1974 as summer aide at Fort Greely in Delta Junction. She has worked for USDA through the Forest Service and Rural Development and also served as a deputy clerk for the U.S. District Court in Fairbanks. She currently works in the USDA Rural Development Fairbanks office as a loan specialist. Wood and her husband reside in North Pole.

Hayes began her Federal service in Anchorage, working for eight years for the Office of Personnel Management. She then transferred to a position with USDA Rural Development and now serves as a loan specialist in the housing department in the Palmer state office.

In 2007, USDA Rural Development invested almost \$176 million in Alaska through its loan and grant programs. USDA Rural Development has its state office in Palmer with area offices in Sitka, Kenai, Fairbanks, Dillingham, Bethel and Nome. Further information on rural programs is available at any of these USDA Rural Development offices or by visiting the web site at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/ak/>

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