



NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture • Rural Development
800 West Evergreen • Suite 201 • Palmer, AK 99645-6539

Phone: (907) 761-7705 • Fax: (907) 761-7783 • TDD: (907) 761-7786 • Web: <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/ak/>

Contact:
State Director: 907-761-7705

USDA TO HOST ROUNDTABLE ON JOBS, ECONOMIC GROWTH AT CENTENNIAL HALL IN JUNEAU ON TUESDAY, JANUARY 26

JUNEAU, Alaska, January 25, 2010 – USDA Rural Development State Director Jim Nordlund and Farm Services Agency Executive Director Danny Consenstein are inviting anyone who wishes to participate to attend the third of four economic roundtables tomorrow at Centennial Hall in Juneau. The meeting will begin at 1:30 and follows the Forum on Jobs and Economic Growth that President Obama hosted at the White House on December 3.

The roundtable 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:

- Creating jobs by building Alaska's rural infrastructure; such as expanded broadband access to rural communities
- Expanding Alaska's agricultural production and building stronger local food systems;
- Creating jobs by lowering energy costs and developing new renewable energy projects;
- Exploring economic opportunities as a result of climate change;
- Supporting job growth among small businesses;
- Preparing workers for 21st century jobs;
- Exploring ways to rejuvenate and promote local businesses.

Sponsors for the Juneau forum include: The University of Alaska-Southeast, Sealaska Corp., Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska, Southeast Conference and The Juneau Economic Development Corporation (JEDC). A final jobs meeting is scheduled at the Millennium Hotel in Anchorage on February 1 at 1:30 p.m.

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