

Delaware & Maryland **USDA**
Rural Development
...our roots are in the land.

24/7/365 Our Year in Review

Fiscal Year 2008 proved to be our best year ever. From office consolidation to program delivery, our numbers will show that we have become more efficient and more responsive to serving the rural communities and rural citizens of Delaware and Maryland. Across our two great states, USDA Rural Development returned an impressive \$26,000 an hour of your taxpayer dollars to help improve the quality of life and increase economic opportunity in the rural communities that we call home. It is places like Federalsburg and Cambridge, Millsboro and Milford, Taneytown and Williamsport, that we have been pleased to support.

Through your taxpayer dollars, we are striving to keep Rural in America.

Older, native residents are likely to recall a rural Delaware and a rural Maryland that were more rural than now – when kids walked to school and when your closest neighbor lived a mile away. Since that time in history, our rural population has been steadily growing. Our Rural America is forever changing.

Healthy farms and rural landscapes characterize the mission of USDA Rural Development. Our programs are designed to sustain our agricultural heritage and to ensure that our rural communities and rural citizens have access to the same basic needs that our urban neighbors take for granted. In order to maintain the rural areas and rural communities that we love, USDA Rural Development administers over 40 programs that help address the problems with aging infrastructure, sustainable agriculture, access to affordable housing, the creation and retention of jobs and inadequate public services.

As exemplified in this report, we listen, rather than simply hear the issues that are facing small towns and rural areas. Our aim is to help people live in harmony with nature, offer assistance that will help protect and enhance the livability and quality of rural life while preserving the past and securing our future. As we review 2008, our work is about supporting green technology through energy efficiency projects, access to public safety and quality health care, the development of local products and promoting local ownership, improved water and wastewater systems, education for the local workforce, affordable housing opportunities, and the creation and retention of jobs so that we can live, play, raise a family, and grow old with dignity in Rural America.



Over the past eight years, I have been privileged to serve the people through USDA Rural Development. I grew up, and continue to live on my family farm, and I will forever be proud of my rural upbringing. It is exciting to take part in an agency that changes lives, an agency that works to ensure a healthy balance in community, family, work, and freedom. I am confident that with the support of USDA Rural Development, our best days are yet to come in the places that we call home.

Marlene Elliott Brown

Marlene Elliott Brown
State Director
Delaware and Maryland



"For more than 70 years, USDA Rural Development's mission has been to deliver a future that brings expanded economic opportunities and an improved quality of life for rural citizens. As we enter a new fiscal year, USDA is being called upon to help the Nation develop renewable energy, decrease our reliance on foreign oil, and help create extraordinary opportunities for rural entrepreneurs."

Ed Schafer
USDA Secretary

"As economic opportunity and the quality of life in rural communities continue to improve, the future of rural America is bright. Since 2001, USDA Rural Development has invested over \$111 billion in business development, infrastructure, community facilities and rural housing."

Thomas Dorr
Under Secretary for
USDA Rural
Development

The American Actor, John Wayne said....
"Tomorrow is the most important thing in life. Comes into us at midnight very clean. It's perfect when it arrives and it puts itself in our hands. It hopes we've learned something from yesterday."

A special thank you to the Delaware and Maryland Congressional delegations for their support, and our array of partners at the state, local, and nonprofit levels for helping us do what we cannot do alone.

To the team of Rural Development employees - you are the best, thank you for your public service and hard work.

Marlene Elliott Brown

For more information on this report, contact:

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The Fiscal Year of the United States Department of Agriculture runs from October 1 to September 30.

For more information on the programs available through USDA Rural Development, please visit our webpage at: www.rurdev.usda.gov

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(For both Delaware and Maryland)

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AREA OFFICES

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USDA Rural Development
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Worcester, Somerset and Wicomico Counties
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www.rurdev.usda.gov

To determine eligibility to participate in USDA Rural Development programs, please call one of our offices above or visit

<http://eligibility.sc.egov.usda.gov/eligibility/welcomeAction.do>

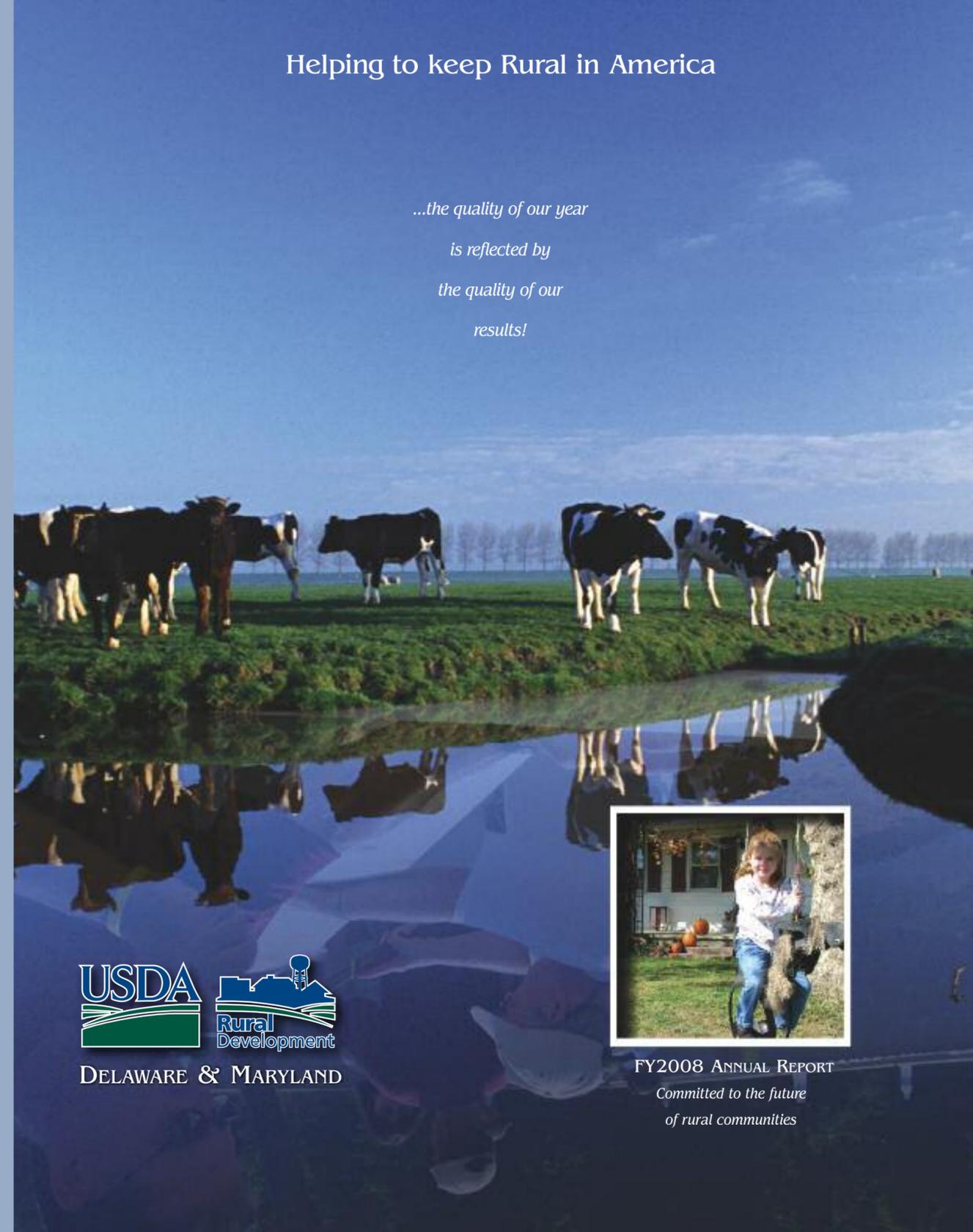
Helping to keep Rural in America

...the quality of our year

is reflected by

the quality of our

results!



FY2008 ANNUAL REPORT

*Committed to the future
of rural communities*



DELAWARE & MARYLAND

USDA Rural Development...

Where the dollars were invested.....

Rural Delaware

Housing	\$28,504,368
Infrastructure	\$22,855,000
Business	\$4,768,944
Community Facilities	\$14,914,000
Total	\$71,042,312

Rural Maryland

Housing	\$114,203,049
Infrastructure	\$24,683,618
Business	\$7,348,284
Community Facilities	\$10,138,500
Total	\$156,373,451

2 farm families receive grants for energy efficiency projects.

5 grants awarded to support value-added agriculture.

8 educational projects assisted.

14 projects funded supporting public safety.

56 dedicated USDA Rural Development employees delivering services to rural Delaware and rural Maryland.

105 homes repaired to remove health and safety hazards and to make homes accessible for people with disabilities.

221 multi-family housing complexes that provide over 7,500 rental apartment units (**2,253 units**) received rental assistance.

694 families or individuals became homeowners.

1,000 plus jobs created or saved.

18,000 homes and businesses touched by improved central water and wastewater systems.

Thousands more were touched by our community facilities program that helped with projects focused on education, health care, and centers for children and seniors.



1



2



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5

Photo captions:

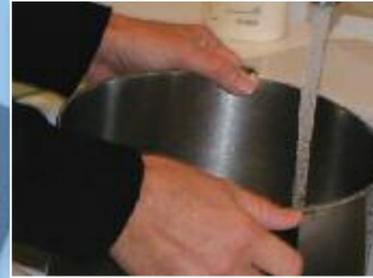
1. Mark Cascia Vineyards, Stevensville
2. New wastewater system, Angola Neck
3. Emergency communications equipment, Allegany County Public Schools
4. New charter school, Clayton
5. New homeowners, Dawn White and family, Harrington



Housing

Affordable housing choices for rural citizens. The homeowner program is available to low-to moderate income individuals and families to buy or repair homes. The Multi-Family Housing program provides rental housing for families, seniors and farm workers.

Photos: Above - Affordable housing Cedar Creek Landing, Lincoln Below - New senior housing, Hurds Crossing, Felton



Infrastructure

Loans, loan guarantees and grants are available to public entities, non-profit organizations and corporations for safe drinking water and water and waste disposal systems. Funding is also available for solid waste management, distance learning, telemedicine, telecommunications including the deployment of broadband and electricity.

Photo: Below - Water system improvements, Milford



Community Facilities

Community programs offer direct and guaranteed financing and grants for essential community facilities that serve the public. Public and non-profit organizations, first responders and faith-based organizations can use the funds to construct, expand or improve facilities that provide health care, public safety, public services and education.

Photos: Above - New equipment, Good Will VFD, Lonaconing Below - New vehicle, Laurel police department



Business

Business programs promote business development and job creation with financing and technical assistance. Businesses are assisted through loan guarantees that provide a credit enhancement to lenders, and grants and re-lending funds to public bodies and non-profit organizations. Utility co-ops are eligible for funds at zero-interest for economic development and job growth.

Photos: Above - The Zwick family, Terrapin Station Winery, Elkton Below - Chapel's Country Creamery, Easton



Agriculture

Rural Development offers two grant programs to help keep farming in the rural way of life. The Value-Added Producer Grant program and the Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Grant program are helping to stimulate the farm economy and support farmer innovation. The innovative initiatives have helped strengthen the viability of small and mid-sized farms allowing agricultural producers to grow businesses around production practices that benefit our rural landscape.

Photo: Below - Elk Run Vineyards, Mount Airy



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