



# NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture • Rural Development  
210 Walnut • Room 873 • Des Moines, IA 50309  
Phone: (515) 284-4663 • Fax: (515) 284-4110 • Web: <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/ia>

---

Contact: Darin Leach, Public Information Coordinator  
Phone: (515) 284-4747 (office); (515) 669-5691 (cell)  
E-mail: [Darin.Leach@ia.usda.gov](mailto:Darin.Leach@ia.usda.gov)

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **USDA Rural Development Recognizes Regional Water for Dedication and Efforts to Improve Water Quality in Southwest Iowa**

*Recognition One of Eight Events USDA Rural Development is Organizing to Celebrate Earth Day*

DES MOINES, Iowa – April 17, 2009 – Karla Peiffer, Community Programs Director with USDA Rural Development in Iowa, was in Avoca last evening to present a plaque recognizing Regional Water for their long-standing efforts to improve water quality in southwest Iowa.

“We are very pleased with Regional Water’s efforts to improve water quality in this area,” Peiffer said. “We believe community improvement efforts are important to the sustainability of rural America.”

Regional Water, which has been providing water services since 1972, uses 28 wells to draw from the West Nishnabotna Watershed of southwest Iowa to serve more than 2,000 customers in Shelby, Montgomery, Audubon, Harrison, Cass and northern Pottawattamie Counties.

During the past 35 years USDA Rural Development has provided \$24.2 million in loans and \$8.6 million in grants to Regional Water to assist the company in bringing clean and reliable water to southwest Iowa communities.

This past year Regional Water also utilized USDA Rural Development’s guaranteed loan program to construct additional infrastructure to support the organization’s efforts to provide water services. Town & Country Credit Union from Harlan participated in this guaranteed loan.

Earth Day, which was first recognized in 1970, is celebrated each year on April 22 as a way to renew a commitment of caring for all of the earth’s natural resources and helping prepare the environment for future generations. Rural communities and businesses in Iowa play a key role in building a safer, healthier and cleaner world.

During the past year in Iowa USDA Rural Development provided nearly \$50 million in loans and grants to assist with financing water and wastewater projects in 35 rural communities to help protect Iowa’s rivers, lakes and streams.

The agency also provided \$15 million to more than 160 rural businesses and producers to assist with energy-saving and renewable energy projects including 15 large and small wind turbines, 18

-More-

---

Committed to the future of rural communities.

“USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender.”  
To file a complaint of discrimination write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 14<sup>th</sup> and Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (202) 720-5964 (voice or TDD).

geothermal heating and cooling systems, 125 more efficient grain-drying systems and four biomass projects.

“All of our programs are voluntary, so we are always on the lookout for individuals and groups wanting to grow in rural Iowa,” Peiffer said. “At USDA Rural Development we believe community improvement efforts are important to the sustainability of rural America.”

**Contact USDA Rural Development**

USDA Rural Development has 11 offices in Iowa that serve 1.9 million Iowans living in rural communities. Office locations include a State Office in Des Moines, along with Area Offices in Albia, Atlantic, Humboldt, Indianola, Iowa Falls, Le Mars, Mount Pleasant, Storm Lake, Tipton and Waverly.

USDA Rural Development’s mission is to deliver programs in away that will support increasing economic opportunity and improve the quality of life of rural residents. As a venture capital entity, Rural Development provides equity and technical assistance to finance and foster growth in homeownership, business development, and critical community and technology infrastructure.

Further information on Rural Development programs is available at the local USDA Rural Development office in Atlantic, which can be reached at (712) 243-2107 or by visiting [www.rurdev.usda.gov/ia](http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/ia).