



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

USDA Rural Development Presents \$1.2 Million to Mahaska Rural Water Systems for Construction of Wastewater Treatment Facility in Tracy

Project One of Eight USDA Rural Development in Iowa is Recognizing To Celebrate Earth Day

KNOXVILLE, Iowa – April 22, 2009 – Representatives from USDA Rural Development today presented Mahaska Rural Water Systems with \$1.2 million in loan and grant funds to assist with the construction of a wastewater treatment facility in Tracy, located in southeastern Marion County.

“We are very pleased to be assisting Mahaska Rural Water Systems with this water-improvement project,” said Timothy Helmbrecht, Acting State Director for USDA Rural Development in Iowa. “We believe community enhancement efforts are important to the sustainability of rural America.”

The new collection system will consist of approximately 13,770 feet of sanitary sewer, one lift station with 5,950 feet of force main and 8,830 feet of sewer service lines and other related appurtenances. The project is expected to serve approximately 112 homes.

USDA Rural Development is providing a \$736,000 loan and \$495,000 grant to assist with financing the project. The State of Iowa has also awarded this project \$255,000 in Community Development Block Grant funds.

When the project is complete it will positively impact the environment because of proper transporting and treating of wastewater within the Des Moines River watershed area. Tracy residents will benefit from the improved livability of their community through the elimination of sewage in area yards and ditches, odor and the associated health concerns.

Celebrating Earth Day

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.

Committed to the future of rural communities.

“USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender.”
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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 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,” Helmbrecht said. “Our mission is to deliver programs in away that will support increasing economic opportunity and improve the quality of life of rural residents.”

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.

As a venture capital entity, USDA 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 programs is available at the local USDA Rural Development office in Albia, which can be reached at (641) 932-3031, or by visiting www.rurdev.usda.gov/ia.