



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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

USDA Rural Development and Iowa Regional Utilities Association Celebrate Earth Day with Public Events in Quasqueton and Greeley April 22

Event Activities Include \$4.95 Million Check Presentation to Bring Clean, Safe Water to Northeast Iowa

QUASQUETON and GREELEY, Iowa – April 22, 2009 – Representatives from USDA Rural Development today presented \$4,950,000 in loan and grant funds to Iowa Regional Utilities Association. The funds will be used for the construction of nearly 33 miles of distribution lines and two water towers to serve a potential 547 residents and businesses in Buchanan County.

Representatives with USDA Rural Development and the Iowa Regional Utilities Association then traveled to Greeley in the afternoon for a water taste test to highlight a nearly finished pipeline and distribution system providing service to the communities of Dundee and Greeley, as well as the adjacent rural area.

Total cost of that project is estimated to be \$3.5 million. USDA Rural Development assisted with a \$2.24 million loan and \$886,000 grant.

“We are very pleased to be assisting Iowa Regional Utilities Association with these water-improvement projects,” said Cheryl Cook, Deputy Under Secretary for USDA Rural Development. “We believe community enhancement efforts are important to the sustainability of rural America.”

For several years the residents of Buchanan County have been plagued by unreliable and contaminated water wells. Once constructed, the distribution lines and new water towers will provide areas of rural Buchanan County and the cities of Quasqueton and Rowley with a safe, dependable supply of water eliminating residents’ exposure to water contaminants.

USDA Rural Development in Iowa is recognizing 2009 Earth Day by hosting a total of eight check presentations and/or community celebrations.

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.

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Committed to the future of rural communities.

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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,” Cook 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 Waverly, which can be reached at (319) 352-1715, or by visiting www.rurdev.usda.gov/ia.