



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Obama Administration Names William Menner as USDA Rural
Development State Director in Iowa**
Menner to Head Rural Development Efforts in Iowa

WASHINGTON, July 20, 2009 — The Obama Administration recently named William Menner as USDA Rural Development State Director in Iowa.

“Menner will be an important advocate on behalf of rural communities in Iowa. He will help administer the valuable programs and services provided by the USDA that can enhance economic success,” said Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack.

Menner is currently the Executive Director for Poweshiek Iowa Development, where he manages, raises funds and develops strategy for a county-wide non-profit economic development organization. Since 2001, Menner has also been an Executive Director for Grinnell Renaissance where he managed the downtown development organization that made an impact on the Central Business District.

Additionally, Menner has been an Executive Director for the Grinnell Tourism Group since 2003 where he manages advertising, organizes community celebrations, develops strategies for increasing local tourism and led a ballot initiative to increase hotel-motel tax. Menner also served as the Senior Program Director the State Public Policy Group, Inc. from 1998-2001 as well as accumulating 24 years of public radio experience.

Menner has dedicated many years of service to various boards and committees in Iowa that are committed to innovation and development. Menner holds a master’s degree in political science and a bachelor’s degree in journalism, both earned from Ohio State University.

USDA Rural Development is an equal opportunity lender with a variety of direct and guaranteed rural credit programs involving single and multi-family housing, community facilities, water and sewer development and business and cooperative programs.

During the past year the helped rural businesses create or retain nearly 10,000 jobs, aided 1,600 families in buying their own home and assisted nearly 120 communities in improving community facilities and upgrading local infrastructure.

USDA Rural Development has 11 offices in Iowa serving 1.9 million Iowans living in rural areas and communities. Office locations include a State Office in Des Moines, along with Area

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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, 14th and Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (202) 720-5964 (voice or TDD).

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Offices in Albia, Atlantic, Humboldt, Indianola, Iowa Falls, Le Mars, Mount Pleasant, Storm Lake, Tipton and Waverly.

Further information on the agency's programs is available by calling (515) 284-4663, at any Rural Development office, or by visiting www.rurdev.usda.gov/ia.

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