



# NEWS RELEASE

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **USDA Rural Development Funding Available for Farm Labor Housing Program**

*Loan Program Assists with Building, Purchasing or  
Repairing Living Facilities for Farm Laborers*

DES MOINES, Iowa – March 19, 2009 – Low-interest loans to help finance housing facilities for farm workers are now available from USDA Rural Development.

“According to the 2007 Census of Agriculture, each year Iowa farm operators spend around \$500 million in hired labor expenses,” said Timothy Helmbrecht, Acting State Director for USDA Rural Development in Iowa. “One way operators can make their farms an attractive place to work, while helping their employees feel settled in the area, is to offer safe and reliable housing opportunities.”

USDA Rural Development’s Farm Labor Housing program offers 33-year loans as low as 1 percent interest to farmer-owners, family farm partnerships, family farm corporations, or an association of farmers whose farming operations demonstrate a need for farm labor housing.

A wide range of projects are eligible for financing through the program. Funds can be used to help buy or build a new living facility or improve and repair an existing structure. The program can be used to purchase and improve the land where housing will be located. Additional expenses such as buying and installing appliances, landscaping, and building sidewalks, yards, fences, parking areas and driveways are also eligible.

The housing provided may be located on the farm, in town, or on a separate tract of land in a rural area. Apartment and single family housing is eligible.

Each year USDA Rural Development invests more than \$100 million in guaranteed loans, direct loans, grants and rental assistance that provide rural Iowa residents with decent, safe and sanitary single or multi-family housing. The agency also offers low-interest loans and grants to help eligible families make essential repairs to their home.

“Providing rural housing opportunities is just another way that USDA Rural Development is enhancing the ability of rural communities to develop and to grow, ensuring the best possible quality of life for rural residents,” Helmbrecht said.

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

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 industry programs.

The agency's mission is to deliver quality programs in a way that will support increasing economic opportunity and improve the quality of life of rural residents. USDA Rural Development's portfolio includes assistance for homeownership, business development, and critical community infrastructure.

**Contact USDA Rural Development**

For more information about this or other housing programs available through USDA Rural Development, please call (515) 284-4663, or visit [www.rurdev.usda.gov/ia](http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/ia).

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

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