



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Tina Menke Receives October Vilsack-Wallace Award *Menke Quickly Learns New Program Areas within Agency*

DES MOINES, Iowa – October 2, 2009 – Bill Menner, USDA Rural Development State Director in Iowa, today announced that Tina Menke has been selected to receive the October Vilsack-Wallace Award. Menke, the Business/Community Programs Technician in the agency's Mount Pleasant office, is being recognized for quickly learning new program areas and helping clients produce quality applications.

Menke moved to the Business/Community Programs area one year ago after spending most of her career in the agency's Housing Programs.

"Tina has taken on these new programs with a 'can do' attitude and has helped our clients get their applications in by their deadlines," Menner said. "During her first year in her new role Tina has worked extremely hard to learn about all areas of our programs."

The agency's Mt. Pleasant office has experienced a significant increase in program activity this year, thanks in part to Menke's hard work and dedication.

"Tina's has not only provided outstanding assistance to communities and businesses applying for funding through USDA Rural Development, but she also found time to work at the agency's booth at the state fair and was the first staff member to volunteer for special outreach opportunities at the Old Threshers reunion," Menner said.

The Vilsack-Wallace Award is named for the two most recent Iowans to serve as US Agriculture Secretary. Tom Vilsack is well known to you all, having served as our governor from 1999 to 2007. Henry A. Wallace was first Ag Secretary and later Vice President under FDR. He also perfected the first corn hybrid and founded Pioneer Hy-Brid. Wallace even ran for president in 1948.

The Vilsack-Wallace Award is given out each month to a USDA Rural Development employee in Iowa who goes above and beyond their normal work duties to assist rural Iowans.

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