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News Release

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KENT VFC FIRE FIGHTING EFFORTS HELPED BY USDA

Kent (#02-27; 6-8-2002): USDA Rural Development announced today that the Kent Volunteer Fire Company has been awarded a \$90,000 grant and a \$45,100 low interest loan. The funding is for a specially equipped fire truck that will strengthen fire fighting efforts in Jefferson County.

At a gathering at the Kent Volunteer Fire House today to celebrate the new truck and the resulting increased fire fighting capabilities, Steve Dye, USDA Rural Development Manager, North Vernon, presented a check for \$135,100 to Lloyd Lamb, Kent Volunteer Company Fire Chief, and James Staley Jr., President. The Build Indiana Fund also provided a \$50,000 grant for the Kent VFC project.

The Kent Volunteer Fire Company has purchased a new 70,000 gallon foam pumper truck with the funding. The pumper will have the ability to produce 1000 gallons of compressed air Class A and B foam per minute. It also reduces water supply needs by 75% which is very important in this area of limited water supply.

Dye said, "USDA appreciates the dangerous job done by fire fighters and we hope that this truck will make their job safer and the citizens of Jefferson County more secure. Congratulations to the Kent VFC for making this major improvement."

Since 1994, USDA Rural Development has invested \$14 million in Jefferson County - nearly \$11 million in single family housing mortgage assistance, nearly \$465,000 for rental housing development and maintenance, \$300,000 for the development of community facilities, \$1,300,000 for improvements to the county's water and wastewater infrastructure, and \$1,200,000 in assistance to rural businesses.

Single family home loans, rural rental housing, water and waste water facility funding, business and industry loans, and community facility loans and grants are financial resources available from USDA Rural Development. Questions concerning these services in this area can be directed to USDA Rural Development, 1981 S. Industrial Park, Suite 4, Versailles, IN 47042-9063; phone 812-689-6410, extension 4.

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