



# NEWS RELEASE

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## **Lyons Natural Gas System Project Dedicated** *USDA Rural Development Partners In Funding*

**Lyons, KS** – USDA Rural Development State Director Chuck Banks joined City of Lyons officials for the natural gas line project yellow ribbon cutting ceremony today. \$3,276,400 of the Agency's *Community Facilities Program* funds were used to replace the existing pipe associated with the City's natural gas system, benefiting a population of 3,732. The program funding was complemented with an applicant contribution of \$67,000.

"I congratulate the City of Lyons and its leaders for the hard work in creating this successful project. USDA Rural Development appreciates the opportunity to be involved in such an important project. The Agency offers many valuable programs which can help communities and rural businesses overcome some of these challenges," commented State Director Banks.

USDA Rural Development's *Community Facilities Program* is designed to develop essential community facilities for public use in rural areas. These facilities include schools, libraries, courthouses, childcare, hospitals, medical clinics, assisted living facilities, fire and rescue facilities and equipment, police and emergency vehicles and services, community centers, public buildings and transportation.

Through its *Community Facilities Program*, the Department of Agriculture is striving to ensure that such facilities are readily available to all rural communities. Community Facilities Programs utilizes three flexible financial tools to achieve this goal: the Community Facilities Guaranteed Loan Program, the Community Facilities Direct Loan Program, and the Community Facilities Grant Program.

During today's announcement, State Director Banks thanked the Kansas Congressional Delegation for their continued support of the Agency's *Community Facilities Program*, along with the many other USDA Rural Development programs. "Over the past seven years alone, the Agency's *Community Facilities Program* has assisted over 590,000 rural Kansans and contributing \$32.5 million in added community development to the Sunflower State's economy.

USDA Rural Development's mission is to deliver programs that support increasing economic opportunities and enhancing the quality of life for rural Americans. 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 in rural America. Since 2001, USDA Rural Development has delivered over \$1.2 billion to Kansans covering all Agency programs, supporting well over \$6 billion in future economic development for the Sunflower State. For additional information regarding all USDA Rural Development programs, contact the Agency at 785-271-2700 or visit the Agency's Kansas website at [www.rurdev.usda.gov/ks](http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/ks)

**USDA Rural Development – Committed to the Future of Rural Communities.**

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