



# NEWS RELEASE

1303 SW First American Place, Suite 100, Topeka, KS 66604-4040  
Voice (785) 271-2701, FAX (785) 271-2708, WEB [www.rurdev.usda.gov/ks](http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/ks)

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Contact – Katherine Nicholson (785) 271-2732

## **USDA Rural Development Speaks at National Association Of Counties Conference** *Greensburg and Fort Riley Programming Discussed*

Topeka, KS - USDA Rural Development's aggressive programming efforts being undertaken in Greensburg and the Fort Riley region were a topic of discussion at the National Association of Counties (NACo) annual conference held in Kansas City this week. NACo's interest in USDA's efforts is due to the Association's desire to support a wide range economic and community development situations present across the Nation.

"USDA Rural Development's innovative 'regional initiative' program model has produced outstanding success across Kansas. What first began to assist economically distressed rural areas has been expanded to also include both growth opportunity regions and disaster-impacted areas. I am especially impressed with the positive results in the multi-partner Greensburg disaster recovery efforts," remarked agency State Director Chuck Banks to conference attendees.

By working more effectively with Agency partners and stakeholders, over the past seven years USDA Rural Development in Kansas has raised its level of funding assistance over 100%. In addition to USDA Rural Development's traditional programming efforts, the Agency has undertaken special regional efforts support the BRAC decisions in the Fort Riley and Fort Leavenworth areas and private sector growth opportunities, along with assisting disaster recovery efforts in Greensburg, eastern Kansas and Chapman.

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 billion for Kansas covering all Agency programs, supporting well over \$5 billion in future economic development for the Sunflower State.

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

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