



NEWS RELEASE

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USDA Rural Development Speaks At New Mexico Conference *Greensburg Success Story Discussed*

Topeka, KS - USDA Rural Development's innovative and aggressive programming efforts being undertaken in Greensburg and Kiowa County were a major topic of discussion at New Mexico's annual Infrastructure Finance Conference held in Albuquerque this week. New Mexico state official's interest in USDA's efforts following the Greensburg tornado is due to their desire to support a wide range of economic and community development situations, including long-term disaster recovery planning, present across their State.

"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 the disaster-impacted area of Greensburg and Kiowa County," remarked agency State Director Chuck Banks to attendees during the conference keynote address.

Banks further commented to conference attendees, "During disaster situations, all entities responding to such an event must cooperate with each other to fully maximize the complete scope of resources available to assist those impacted by the event. I am truly impressed by all the local, state and national resources have come together in Greensburg to help the community."

By working more effectively with Agency partners and stakeholders, over the past seven years USDA Rural Development in Kansas has increased its level of funding assistance to rural communities by over 100%. In addition to USDA Rural Development's traditional programming efforts, the Agency has undertaken special regional efforts to support such projects as the BRAC decisions at Fort Riley and Fort Leavenworth, 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. 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 \$1.4 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.

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