



NEWS RELEASE

Rural Development

3727 Government Street, Alexandria, Louisiana 71302 • <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/la>

Release No.: 03062003-1

Contact: Holly L. Martien, (318) 473-7917
holly.martien@la.usda.gov

BUSH ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL OUTLINES RURAL DEVELOPMENT PRIORITIES FOR 2003

ALEXANDRIA, March 6, 2003 - Michael B. Taylor recently returned to Louisiana from Washington, DC, where he participated in a series of high-level rural economic and community development meetings with key White House, congressional, and USDA officials. The meetings focused on ways to support rural job creation, homeownership, business development, and public utility and community infrastructure needs in rural America.

“The message from Washington officials is they are committed to supporting our efforts to address issues important to rural Louisiana,” said Taylor. “President Bush and this Administration are working to provide the resources and support critical to creating economic opportunities and an improved quality of life for our rural residents.”

Taylor said that Rural Development will focus on providing staff resources and financial assistance in key areas to stimulate economic growth, job creation, and provide support for rural families in Louisiana, including:

- Utilizing Rural Development funds and partnership financing to increase the level of rural homeownership, with an emphasis on expanding opportunities for minority homeownership;
- Advocating through business and industry loan guarantees, value-added agricultural grants, and other programs to expand local business ventures and job creation; and
- Expand community access to information technology for business development and advanced health and educational services through building of technology infrastructure.

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3/6/03

USDA Rural Development provides a full range of rural development credit services in rural Louisiana. The Louisiana Rural Development State Office is located at 3727 Government Street, Alexandria, Louisiana 71302, and the telephone number is (318) 473-7921. There are four (4) Area Offices, located throughout the state to serve Louisiana residents. Further information on USDA Rural Development's loan and grant programs can be obtained by visiting Rural Development's web site at: <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov>.

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