



NEWS RELEASE

Rural Development

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

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USDA ANNOUNCES FUNDING FOR VILLAGE OF SIMSBORO AND GRANT OPPORTUNITY FOR TRAILBLAZER RC&D

RUSTON, April 23, 2003 – The U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development observed Earth Day today by presenting \$740,700 in Rural Utilities Service loan and grant funds to the Village of Simsboro to renovate and extend their sewer system.

Officials also announced that Trailblazer RC&D of Ruston, Louisiana, has been selected to proceed with their application for \$100,000 in Rural Development solid waste management grant funding for their very successful multi-parish recycling program. This selection is a result of a nationwide competition for these grant funds. It is the only project of this type selected in Louisiana.

Congressman Rodney Alexander was on hand with Rural Development State Director Michael B. Taylor to present \$740,700 to Simsboro Mayor Woodie Pritchett and to congratulate Trailblazer RC&D.

“The construction in Simsboro will bring improved sewer service to 263 residential users and extend service to nine new users,” said Taylor. “The new sewer system will not only improve the quality of life for the people in this area, it will help protect the environment.”

On Earth Day, people around the world focus their efforts on important environmental issues. The U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development recognizes Earth Day by awarding funding to rural water and wastewater community infrastructure projects across the nation. This year, Rural Development will fund 42 rural Earth Day projects in 29 states, totaling over \$104 million.

“The loan and grant funds provided by Rural Development will make improving the environment achievable and affordable for Simsboro and Trailblazer RC&D,” said Taylor.

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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 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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