



NEWS RELEASE

Rural Development

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

Release No.: 06092003-1

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

HOMEOWNERSHIP HEADLINES DISCUSSION AT TOWN HALL MEETING

FERRIDAY, June 9, 2003 – Financing opportunities, credit worthiness, assets and liabilities, and community development issues highlighted discussions at a packed town hall meeting Monday night in the Ferriday City Hall.

Ferriday Mayor Glen McGlothlin and USDA Rural Development State Director Michael B. Taylor led the discussion on homeownership opportunities. “Everyone dreams of owning their own home, but not everybody thinks they can afford it,” said Mayor McGlothlin. “I hope this meeting will help open the door for many folks wanting to purchase a home.”

Area lenders from Concordia Bank and Trust, Tensas State Bank, and Delta Bank were joined by representatives of USDA Rural Development to provide step-by-step information on how to begin the home-buying process.

“Homeownership strengthens our rural communities and adds to the overall quality of life,” said Taylor. “USDA’s Rural Development programs have an excellent track record of building opportunities for homeownership and building stronger communities.”

Jennifer Freeman, Delta Bank; David Jones, Tensas State Bank; Paula Morris, Concordia Bank and Trust; and Debbie Redfearn, USDA Rural Development were joined by Laurie Vegnaud Marshall of Hibernia National Bank in a panel discussion of homeownership issues.

“The information provided tonight is just a sample of the assistance we can provide at our banks,” said Jennifer Freeman. “We are all hoping this will encourage people to come visit us and find out about our lending programs.”

-more-

**HOMEOWNERSHIP HEADLINES DISCUSSION
AT TOWN HALL MEETING**

6/9/03

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 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>.

USDA Rural Development is an equal opportunity lender, provider, and employer. Complaints of discrimination should be sent to: USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Washington, DC 20250-9140.

#