



**Community & Co-op Development
Summer 2002**

Editor's note: Greetings! In an effort to better communicate our involvement in rural Minnesota, the Community & Co-op Development division of USDA Rural Development will publish a quarterly newsletter. If you'd like more information on any of Rural Development's programs see: www.rurdev.usda.gov/mn/ You'll find details on funding for housing, business, rural utility projects, community facilities (fire trucks, ambulances, community centers, etc.), distance learning, telemedicine, value-added agriculture, as well as the subjects covered in this newsletter.

K.C.

- Program Director -- Joe Folsom**
- State Rural Development Coordinator -- Deb Miller-Slipek**
- Northwest MN. -- Kathy Coyle**
- Southwest MN. -- Paul Pierson**
- Eleven American Indian Reservations -- Pam Wiltsey**
- Special Projects -- Bill Slininger**

Community & Co-op Development Activities:

- Established a Clay-Wilkin housing coalition
- Hosted economic developers from the West Central Initiative area and showcased RD and Detroit Lakes
- Facilitated planning for city officials in Barnesville, Felton, and Fosston
- Research to help communities reach their goals
- Conducted public visioning sessions for Halstad, Strandquist, Halma, and Oslo



Kathy Coyle and Andrew Gag, Community Facilities Specialist, helped Halstad residents brainstorm on what they'd like in a possible firehall/community center

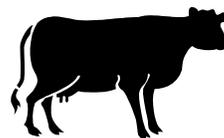
- Video taped and disseminated information from the Initiative Foundation's seminar on "How to Plan a Community Center" as well as possible funding through USDA RD's Community Facilities program
- Organizational development with a Crookston ethanol task force
- Cooperative development with many partners to develop a compost/fertilizer effort near Roseau

- On-going effort to establish a youth entrepreneur program, partnering with ND's Market Place for Kids
- Participated in the Tribal & USDA Leadership Summit near Thief River Falls and Grand Portage
- Conducted manufacturing site visits and networking to help business leaders find gap financing
- Partnered in technology efforts to attract back-offices and other employment for the underemployed



- Assisted in year 'round planning and execution of the MN Rural Summit in Duluth that focused on health and economic issues, sponsored by MN Rural Partners, see: www.minnesotaruralpartners.org

- Attended seminars on co-op financing, business management, wind energy, community development, housing, technology, and health care
- Assisted in Becker County planning sessions
- Partnered with RD Housing Specialists at EVHI (Economic Vitality Housing Initiative) meetings
- Assisted RD Housing Specialists counsel White Earth residents on possible loans
- Exhibited with partners at Farmfest, Redwood Falls
- Sponsored, planned, and attended the Laotian/Hmong Conference, Worthington



- Consulted with River Ridge Dairy, Lancaster
- Conducted market research for Agassiz Dairy Co-op

- Developed business plans for Buckwheat Growers Co-op (Wadena), Headwaters Forestry Co-op (Todd Co.) and Whole Farm Co-op (Long Prairie)
- Counseled clients on applications for the Value-Added Development Grant (VADG) for producers
- Partnered with SBA & FEMA at a disaster center in Northwest Minnesota
- RCAP relationships with Mahnomen, Deer River, and Ortonville
- Empowerment Zone grant contenders may now become Champion Communities
- Strategic planning and business enterprise development with Hollandale Marketing Association (Freeborn Co.)
- Business planning for St. Paul Growers' Assn. for an indoor farmers' market
- Assistance with operations management for Hokah Oil Co-op (Houston Co.)
- Organizational development with Woodlands Co-op, Cambridge

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