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# NEWS RELEASE

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## Women's Equality Day Celebration

The USDA Service Center in Farmington, Missouri, recently recognized Women's Equality Day, on August 26, 2004, with a multi-agency ice cream cake celebration.

August 26 of each year is designated in the United States as Women's Equality Day. Instituted by Rep. Bella Abzug and first established in 1971, the date commemorates the passage of the 19th Amendment, the Woman Suffrage Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, which gave U.S. women full voting rights in 1920. However, the roots of the women's rights movement go back at least 80 years earlier



In 1840, Elizabeth Cady Stanton met Lucretia Mott at the World's Anti-Slavery Convention in London. They, along with other women there, expected to join in the anti-slavery proceedings, but male delegates refused to allow them to participate. Thus rebuffed, Mott and Stanton began a journey that would lead to the 1848 Seneca Falls Convention. There, the Declaration of Rights called for women's equality, including the right to vote and to take part in our Nation's great moral debates. One woman who attended that convention was Charlotte Woodward. She was nineteen at the time. In 1920, when women finally won the vote throughout the nation, Charlotte Woodward was the only participant in the 1848 Convention who was still alive to cast her vote. Eighty-one years old, she cast her vote proudly.

The employees at the service center enjoyed the ice cream cake and the company of each other on this historic day, celebrating and recognizing the great support and efforts made by the women working there.