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# NEWS RELEASE

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## USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT RECOGNIZES FIRST MIDWEST BANK PARTNERSHIP

In a presentation held November 28, in Dexter, Missouri, First Midwest Bank of Southeast Missouri was presented a Certificate of Recognition from USDA Rural Development. The recognition was for First Midwest Bank being a “Certified Lender” under the USDA Rural Development’s Guaranteed Rural Housing (GRH) Loan Program and ranking number one in the state for the volume of loans and the amount of funds loaned for the past year.

First Midwest Bank processed 167 loans totaling \$11,875,234 during the federal fiscal year 2005, which ended September 30th. The USDA Rural Development GRH Loan Program in the state continues to be very successful. In the past year 184 approved lenders participated in the program by providing approximately \$121,539,138 to 1,469 rural Missouri households to purchase homes.

Greg Branum, Missouri USDA Rural Development State Director, said, “This is truly a success story when the private sector and the Federal Government can partner to help rural Missourians achieve the dream of homeownership. Creating opportunities for homeownership helps families build equity, improve their financial stability and instill a sense of pride in their community. Everyone benefits with this type of cooperation. I am very pleased when I see First Midwest Bank and USDA Rural Development financing helping so many families and communities.”

“We have enjoyed working with Rural Development and look forward to continuing our relationship with them in the future. Working with the local Rural Development personnel makes our job easier and allows us to assist our customers more efficiently,” said Jack Huffman, First Midwest Bank Executive Vice President.

The GRH loan program allows a no down payment-thirty year loan for low to moderate income applicants with no maximum home purchase price. The maximum amount of loan is determined by the families repayment ability.

USDA Rural Development’s mission is to deliver programs in a way that will support increasing economic opportunity and improve the quality of life of rural residents. As a venture capital entity, Rural Development provides equity and technical assistance to finance and foster growth in homeownership, business development, and critical community and technology infrastructure. Further information on rural programs is available by visiting USDA’s web site at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/mo/> or by contacting Kathy Cagle, Rural Development Manager, at the Dexter Local Office of USDA Rural Development at 18450 Ridgeview Lane, Dexter, Missouri 63841 or by calling 573-624-5939 ext. #4.



Left to right: Terry Luetkemeyer, Area Director, Greg Branum, State Director, Pam Anglin, Rural Development Manager, Steve Millington, Sr. Vice President, Cathy Walters, Rural Development Manager, Jack Huffman, Ex. Vice President, Kathy Cagle, Rural Development Manager, and Joey McLane, President

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