

USDA



Committed to the future of rural communities.

NEWS RELEASE

Contact: Stan L. Wolfe, St. Joseph Area Specialist Telephone (816) 364-3767 (extension #5)

HOLT COUNTY PWSO #1 CELEBRATES EARTH DAY

An Earth Day celebration was held at the Oregon, MO office of Holt County Public Water Supply District (PWSO) #1 on Thursday, April 24th. USDA Rural Development grant funds totaling \$150,000 will be used to extend the District's water distribution lines to supply additional households with a good supply of clean water. The PWSO will be contributing \$6,000 to the extension project.

Earth Day is celebrated across the Nation to recognize communities and organizations for their accomplishments in providing environmentally safe living conditions to rural residents. Since the first celebration on April 22, 1970 in which 20 million people participated, Earth Day events have grown worldwide with recognition by more than 500 million people in 175 countries.

The Holt County event was part of many Earth Day events across Missouri. Several of the households being added to the District's existing system were present.

"Having relied on well water in the past, we are excited to have a guaranteed clean drinking water supply in our home for our growing family," said Kelly Luce regarding the expansion project. Roger and Kelli Brock stated, "We are looking forward to not having to purchase bottled water anymore and not worrying about the safety of our well water and the uncertainty as to our well going dry."

The funds are being provided through USDA Rural Development's Emergency Community Water Assistance Grant program. This program assists rural areas that have experienced a significant decline in water quantity or quality by obtaining or maintaining adequate quantities of safe drinking water. USDA Rural Development's Water and Environmental Programs are available to eligible entity's to provide financing for public water and sanitary sewer facilities for rural residents.



Pictured left to right: Becky Cotton, Stan Wolfe (Area Specialist with the USDA Rural Development Area Office at St. Joseph), Dan Hegeman (Associate District Director for U.S. Congressman Sam Graves), Tom Hare (District Operator), Beth Hare (District Clerk), Wayne Kurtz (District Board Member), John Dudeck (District Board Member), Kent Kurtz (District President), the Luce family (Hattie Jo, Aaron, Kelly and Isabella).

“I would like to extend my appreciation to the Holt County PWSD #1 for their dedication in providing clean safe water to users within their district,” said Morris Westfall, Missouri State Director for USDA Rural Development. “It’s particularly appropriate to recognize this achievement as part of the national celebration of Earth Day.”

USDA Rural Development’s mission is to deliver programs in a way that will support increasing economic opportunity and improve the quality of life for rural residents. As a venture capital entity, Rural Development provides funding 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 contacting Stan L. Wolfe, at the St. Joseph Rural Development Area Office, 3915 Oakland Avenue, St. Joseph, MO 64506 or by calling (816) 364 - 3767 (extension #5).

“Committed to the future of rural communities.”

“USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender.”

To file a complaint of discrimination write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Ave., S.W., Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD).