

NEWS RELEASE



United States Department of Agriculture
Rural Development

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SALEM AREA COMMUNITY BETTERMENT ASSOCIATION RECEIVES \$23,000 FROM USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT FOR NEW FARMERS MARKET BUILDING IN SALEM

The Salem Area Community Betterment Association received a \$23,000 Mock Check on Wednesday July 9, 2003 at the project location of 202 E. Main Street in Salem Missouri. The USDA Community Facility Grant funds will be used to construct a new 36' x 72' building behind the Visitor's Center. Last year, there was a greater demand for produce than the growers could supply and the vendors and customers have encouraged SACBA to continue the project.

Greg Branum, Missouri USDA Rural Development State Director, said, "I want to commend the Salem Area Community Betterment Association for its efforts to establish this facility as a permanent place to establish a market and allow it to grow. I am very pleased that USDA can help with financing this worthwhile community project."

The Farmers Market in Salem MO was re-established in 2002 at the request of the public and several local growers after it had been discontinued 3 years earlier. It was open during the spring, summer and fall season each Saturday from 8:00 am to 12:00 noon. Usually, nine to eleven vendors participated with an average of 100 to 200 customers each week. The products offered were lettuce, tomatoes, radishes, artichokes, kale, beets, squash, peppers, watermelon, cantaloupe, peaches, apples, nuts, mushrooms, baked goods, home made jellies and jams, honey, annual and perennial flowers, craft art, and children selling eggs.

Community Facility Loans and Grants are available to public bodies, not for profit entities or Indian Tribes, to finance essential public use facilities and equipment (health, fire, nutrition, libraries, etc.) Anyone seeking more information about the Community Facility Loan and Grant program or any other USDA, Rural Development programs may visit the homepage at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/mo/> or by contacting the Houston office at 6726B South Hwy 63, Houston, MO 65483 or by calling 417-967-2028, extension 3.