



# NEWS RELEASE

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## **USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT HONORS WOODROW MARTIN OF LOUISIANA WITH NATIONAL COMMUNITY CHAMPION AWARD**

WASHINGTON, Jan. 14, 2009 — Agriculture Acting Under Secretary for Rural Development Douglas L. Faulkner today announced the selection of Woodrow Martin of Louisiana as the inaugural recipient of the Agency's National Community Champion Award. The award recognizes a Rural Development employee whose outstanding service and dedication has expanded the visibility and impact of USDA Rural Development programs among local residents, businesses and lenders. The National Community Champion Award is chosen from a group of State Community Champion honorees.

"Mr. Martin's tireless work on behalf of the residents of some of Louisiana's most economically disadvantaged regions has changed lives and improved living conditions," Faulkner said. "His exceptional commitment to delivering services through Rural Development programs makes him our choice to be this year's National Community Champion."

Martin is a single family housing specialist with the Louisiana Rural Development State office and has 29 years of service with Rural Development in the Agency. Born and raised in Catahoula Parish, he is an active leader in many of the area's service groups and organizations.

Martin is being recognized as USDA Rural Development's National Community Champion because of his single-minded dedication to helping improve the quality of life of rural Louisiana through Rural Development programs.

"Woodrow is known throughout east central Louisiana as the 'go to' man for USDA Rural Development," said Clyde Holloway, Louisiana State Director. "If you want a new roof, go to Woodrow; if you would like to buy a new home, go to Woodrow; and if you want to talk about community needs, such as water and waste, first responder, or business go to Woodrow and he will help you find the resources you need."

"All of the employees in the rest of the state want to know how he gets it all done," said Holloway. "If you ask Woodrow, he would say, 'Our programs are what communities need—they sell themselves.'"

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Committed to the future of rural communities.

"USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender."  
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USDA Rural Development's mission is to increase economic opportunity and improve the quality of life for rural residents. Rural Development fosters growth in homeownership, finances business development, and supports creation of critical community and technology infrastructure. Further information on rural programs is available at a local USDA Rural Development office or by visiting USDA's web site at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov>.

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