

USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT NEBRASKA

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HAYES COUNTY BENEFITS FROM DUAL PURPOSED FACILITY --USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROVIDES FUNDS

Kearney, Neb., July 12-The Hayes County Agricultural Society, Inc. received in early June, \$100,000 in loan and grant funds from the United States Department of Agriculture Rural Development. The leveraged project totaling \$135,000 will be used to construct a facility, which will serve the 1,200 residents of Hayes County as both a county fair exhibit hall and a community center.

The USDA \$80,000 loan and \$20,000 grant will be joined by \$25,000 from the Hayes County Agricultural Society, Inc., \$7,000 in donations, and \$3,000 from in kind labor. The USDA loan will be repaid over 40 years at 4.75 percent interest.

Lennis Hodgson, rural development manager for Nebraska USDA Rural Development stated, "The need for this new facility in Hayes County is apparent." "The two county fair buildings currently being used, one for concessions and the other as an exhibit hall, are inadequate and most likely beyond repair. Additionally, there is very limited space in Hayes County to hold social gatherings, meetings, etc. The facility that is presently used is old, not ADA or handicap accessible, and is in need of major repairs."

The proposed new 60' x 60' multi-purpose building will be ADA accessible, and provide a kitchen area and restrooms. This facility, located on the Hayes County Fair Grounds, will be available for social events, meetings and for county fair and ball program use.

The planned exhibit hall/community center will take the place of the existing food preparation building and exhibit hall located on the Hayes County Fair Grounds.

USDA Rural Development is a credit arm of the U.S. Department of Agriculture whose mission is to provide financial assistance to rural communities who are unable to secure acceptable credit elsewhere for housing, community facilities, and business development. Assistance provided can be in the form of grants, direct loans, and guarantees on loans made by commercial lenders.

The USDA Rural Development funding is provided through the Community Facility Loan and Grant Program. For additional information contact Lennis Hodgson in the USDA Rural Development Office, 4009 North 6th Avenue Kearney, Neb. 68848 or phone (308) 237-3118. Website: www.rurdev.usda.gov/ne/.

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