

USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT NEBRASKA

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Paxton to Benefit From Over \$2 Million of Water System Improvements

North Platte, Nebraska, June 13-The Village of Paxton is the recipient of \$493,000 in loan and \$380,300 in grant funds from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Development. These funds, along with a Village contribution of \$11,000, will provide for the construction of a new well for the Village's water system and the costs associated with the alternate well site location.

"The original site for the well contained high concentrations of nitrate in the aquifer so an alternate well site had to be located," stated Roberta Mues, rural development specialist for USDA Rural Development. "The new site is located approximately 5,000 feet south of the community. With the new location came increased developmental costs, requiring additional funding."

Installation of a transmission line between the new well and the existing distribution system and abandoning a septic tank of an adjacent business and providing municipal sewer system to the area, are costs associated with the new well site location. Both the installation of the new transmission and sewer line involves a river crossing, which also adds to the costs.

The USDA Rural Development loan announced today will be repaid over 40 years at 4.75 percent interest.

USDA Rural Development initially provided in April of 1998, \$638,000 in loan and \$276,000 in grant funds for the water improvement project. Community Development Block Grant funds from the Nebraska Department of Economic Development totaling \$250,000 were also received. The funds provided for a new storage facility, control system, replacement of water mains, and the installation of water meters.

With the completion of the new water system, the 240 residents of Paxton will have a dependable supply of safe drinking water.

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 funds are received through the Water & Waste Disposal Loan and Grant Program of USDA Rural Development. For additional information regarding USDA Rural Development Loan and Grant Programs, contact Roberta Mues in the USDA Rural Development Office, 1202 S. Cottonwood, North Platte, Neb. 69101 or phone (308) 534-2360. Website: www.rurdev.usda.gov/ne/.

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