

## USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT NEBRASKA

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### **New Well Slated for Ruskin**

Kearney, Neb., July 11--The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Development announced today the awarding of \$616,500 in loan and grant funds to the Village of Ruskin. The USDA funds, leveraged with \$10,000 from the Village, will develop a new well to provide quality water for the community's 187 residents.

The \$209,500 USDA Rural Development loan will be repaid over 40 years at 4.50 percent interest.

Currently the Village of Ruskin is serviced by two wells, one is utilized for emergency use only, the other for the village's daily water needs. Both wells have experienced problems with Benzene contamination in the past. In 1993, the community was placed under an Administrative Order as the level of Benzene contamination exceeded the maximum contaminate level. This order was later lifted, once the Benzene level was reduced. Benzene still poses a problem today and demands constant efforts by the Village to keep the level within regulatory guidelines.

Glen Gatz, rural development specialist for USDA Rural Development stated, "The new village well will meet the health and sanitary standards of Health and Human Services and the Environmental Protection Agency. This will ensure safe drinking water for the community."

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.

Ruskin's USDA funding was received through the USDA Rural Development Water & Wastewater Loan and Grant Program. For additional information contact Glen Gatz in the USDA Rural Development Office, 4009 North 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue Kearney, Neb. 68848 or phone (308) 237-3118. Website: [www.rurdev.usda.gov/ne/](http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/ne/).

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