

USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT NEBRASKA

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USDA Provides \$69.3 Million to Rural Nebraska

-- Fiscal Year 2001 Annual Report Released

Lincoln, Neb., Jan. 14, 2002— USDA Rural Development in Nebraska released today its Fiscal Year 2001 Annual Report revealing over \$69.3 million provided to rural Nebraska communities. The \$69.3 million reflects an increase of 16.4 percent compared to the \$59.5 million delivered in Fiscal Year 2000.

"Fiscal Year 2001 has been a great year for Rural Development in Nebraska. Over \$29 million was administered through various business and community programs and nearly \$40 million through housing programs," said Nebraska's State Director Jim Barr, USDA Rural Development.

The Annual Report discloses the use of USDA's financial assistance for the fiscal year. Noted accomplishments include the funding of projects for the delivery of safe and dependable drinking water and sanitary wastewater disposal to 7,086 rural Nebraskans. Improved healthcare to 113,899 rural Nebraska residents through telemedicine funds. The development of new community centers, libraries, etc. in 24 rural Nebraska communities. Educational opportunities afforded to 10 rural Nebraska school districts through a distance learning grant. Enhanced technical assistance services and opportunities provided to rural Nebraska cooperatives. The creation/saving of 226 rural jobs for Nebraskans. Rural homeownership in Nebraska made possible for 699 individuals/families. Essential home repairs were provided for 121 rural Nebraska homeowners. Three new rural rental housing complexes in Nebraska to offer 40 units of affordable rural housing to families and the elderly.

USDA Rural Development administers programs to assist rural communities in areas of housing, business, utilities, and community infrastructure. Through these various programs, USDA awards funding to rural residents, communities and businesses providing an opportunity for growth, strength, sustainability and a better way of life.

For further information or a copy of the Annual Report, contact your local USDA Rural Development Office or the State Office at 402-437-5551; write USDA Rural Development Rm. 152 Federal Building 100 Centennial Mall North Lincoln, Nebraska 68508-3888. Visit www.rurdev.usda.gov/ne/ for a copy of the Annual Report, to find additional program information or to locate your nearest USDA Rural Development Office.

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