



# NEWS RELEASE

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## USDA ANNOUNCES OVER \$3.1 MILLION FOR RURAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN 24 STATES

WASHINGTON, September 5, 2002 – Agriculture Secretary Ann M. Veneman announced the selection of 29 economic development projects in 24 states to receive over 3.1 million, as part of the Bush Administration’s ongoing commitment to invest and bolster programs for rural America.

“Expanding America’s rural economy depends on the development of new businesses and the creation of new jobs,” said Veneman. “These grants will provide rural residents with the financial tools needed to create business ventures and expand their local economy.”

“In rural America, the entrepreneurial spirit is alive. Through these funds, many additional rural businesses and communities will be able to improve their local economic conditions and create more jobs in rural areas,” said Under Secretary for Rural Development Tom Dorr. “President Bush and our team at Rural Development believe in our rural entrepreneurs and are working to foster these efforts.”

Veneman’s announcement today underscores the commitment outlined in President Bush’s Economic Forum in Waco, Texas, last week, to strengthen the nation’s economy and create new jobs to help rural working families. The projects selected will provide rural communities and businesses with funds needed to provide planning, training, technical assistance, and necessary facilities and equipment needed to pursue local economic development.

Funding provided through USDA Rural Development’s business opportunity grants and economic development loan and grant programs will assist over 455 businesses and create or save nearly 3,000 jobs. The loans and grant are distributed as follows:

Alabama - \$450,000	Maine - \$13,000	Ohio - \$50,000
California - \$50,000	Maryland - \$50,000	Pennsylvania - \$15,000
Colorado - \$9,500	Minnesota - \$250,000	South Dakota - \$200,000
Georgia - \$50,000	Mississippi - \$431,687	Tennessee - \$50,000
Indiana - \$50,000	Missouri - \$222,000	Texas - \$413,936
Kansas - \$200,000	Nebraska - \$300,000	Vermont - \$35,538
Kentucky - \$48,360	North Carolina - \$50,000	Virginia - \$49,587
Louisiana - \$49,790	North Dakota - \$50,000	Washington - \$50,000

USDA rural Development serves as the lead federal entity for rural development needs and administers program assistance through three agencies: Rural Housing Service, rural Business-Cooperative Service and Rural Utilities Service. Further information on USDA rural Development can be obtained by contacting any USDA Service Center or by visiting USDA's web site at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/>.

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### **RURAL BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY GRANT (RBOG) PROGRAM**

**NEBRASKA – Northeast Nebraska Economic Development District, Norfolk, Neb. - \$50,000**  
– Grant funds will be used to bring communities in a 16-county area online through the Nebraska Economic Development Information Online (NEDI) system. This will market northeast Nebraska communities, expand business opportunities and create quality jobs.

### **RURAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT LOAN AND GRANT (REDLG) PROGRAM**

**NEBRASKA – Great Plains Communications, Inc., Snyder, Neb. - \$250,000** – Loan funds will be used to assist DANKO Emergency Equipment Co., a manufacturer of specialized, customized vehicles for the fire emergency and protection industry, in the construction of a new 33,000 square foot manufacturing facility in Snyder, Neb.