



NEWS RELEASE

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\$5 MILLION IN RURAL COOPERATIVE DEVELOPMENT GRANTS TO FOSTER ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN 19 STATES

WASHINGTON, August 28, 2002 – Agriculture Secretary Ann M. Veneman announced \$5 million in economic development to strengthen rural communities in 19 states, as part of the Bush Administration’s ongoing commitment to invest and bolster programs for rural America. The funding will assist cooperatives in facilitating the retention of rural jobs through the development of cooperatives in rural areas.

“Utilizing cooperative ventures to bring new economic opportunities to rural areas is an important part of creating new jobs in rural America,” said Veneman. “These grants will give rural residents the opportunity to expand and improve local businesses and economies.”

The [cooperative development grant](#) program is administered through USDA Rural Development Rural Business-Cooperative Service. The grants were awarded on a competitive basis and are intended to foster rural cooperative development through projects that provide rural residents with education and technical assistance in areas of cooperative startup, marketing and managing, and other self-help tools.

Recipient states and the grant amounts are the following:

Alabama - \$299,365	Maryland - \$289,500	Ohio - \$294,976
Arkansas - \$238,681	Minnesota - \$294,000	Pennsylvania - \$300,000
California - \$299,530	Missouri - \$173,385	South Dakota - \$100,000
Colorado - \$298,740	Mississippi - \$161,667	Texas - \$232,460
Kansas - \$300,000	Montana - \$291,652	Virginia - \$299,980
Kentucky - \$269,500	North Dakota - \$300,000	
Massachusetts - \$297,618	*Nebraska - \$294,979	

USDA Rural Development serves as the lead Federal entity for rural development needs and administers financial and technical 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/>.

***NEBRASKA - Nebraska Cooperative Development Center - \$294,979** - Purpose: To provide technical assistance and education for enhancing long-term cooperative development capacity with a sustainable approach.