



**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
RURAL DEVELOPMENT**

Rm. 152 Federal Building 100 Centennial Mall North Lincoln, Neb. 68508
(402) 437-5551 (Phone) (402) 437-5093 (TDY) (402) 437-5408 (Fax)

Contact: Phil Willnerd, Multi Family Housing Specialist
Lincoln, Neb.
(402) 437-5594

USDA MAKES OVER \$36 MILLION AVAILABLE TO HOUSE FARM WORKERS

Lincoln, Neb., March 7 – The Rural Housing Service of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Development announced that over \$36 million in loans and grants are available in Fiscal Year 2002 through the Farm Labor Housing program. This program assists in the financing of the construction, acquisition and rehabilitation of off-farm housing units for domestic farm laborers.

“The Farm Labor Housing program provides for modest, safe and sanitary housing for domestic farm laborers in the areas where labor needs exist,” stated Jim Barr, state director for USDA Rural Development in Nebraska. “USDA continues to place emphasis on improving living conditions for farm workers and their families, which is clearly reflected by the increased funding for the program this fiscal year.”

Farm Labor Housing loans and grants are authorized to be made to broad-based nonprofit organizations, nonprofit organizations of farm workers, public agencies, Indian Tribes, and subdivisions of state and local government, for the purpose of developing rental units for farm workers.

The \$36 million available from USDA Rural Development will be awarded based on a national competitive application process. Scoring criteria is outlined in the pre-application package. Applicants must submit loan applications to their USDA Rural Development State Office by 5 p.m. CDT, May 28, 2002.

For more information on this program and a pre-application package, contact the USDA Rural Development State Office at Room 152 Federal Building 100 Centennial Mall North Lincoln, Nebraska 68508-3888 or call 402-437-5594. The announcement and program guidelines appear in the Feb. 25, 2002 Federal Register. Check the USDA Rural Development website at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov> to find more information on the Farm Labor Housing program and other USDA Rural Development programs.

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