



**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
RURAL DEVELOPMENT**

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**USDA ANNOUNCES APPLICATION TIMEFRAME
FOR FARM LABOR HOUSING PROGRAM**

Lincoln, Neb., January 15, 2003 - The Rural Housing Service of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Development published a NOTICE in the December 27, 2002 Federal Register announcing the timeframe and guidelines for applications to be submitted under 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."

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.

Applications will be awarded funding based on a national competitive application process. Scoring criteria is outlined in the application package. Applicants must submit loan applications to their USDA Rural Development State Office by 5 p.m. CST, March 27, 2003.

For more information on this program and an 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. 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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