



**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
RURAL DEVELOPMENT**

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USDA Rural Development Provides Funds for New Emergency Siren System

Norfolk, Neb., February 28, 2003--U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Development grant funds of \$12,500 were awarded in mid February to the Village of Oakdale. The USDA grant funds, in conjunction with \$4,189 contributed by the Village will provide the 345 rural residents of Oakdale with the financing needed for a new emergency siren system.

"USDA is pleased to assist with Oakdale's early warning system," stated Jolene Kasper, rural development specialist for USDA Rural Development. "The Village has been without a working, reliable siren for some time which can be dangerous. The new warning system will provide the residents of Oakdale with the sense of security that all rural areas are entitled to."

The Village's present siren/warning system is approximately 50 years old and is not completely functional in winter or wet conditions. Parts for the siren are no longer available making replacement of the warning system inevitable.

USDA and Village dollars will be used to remove and dispose of the old warning system and to install a new power pole and Federal 2001 AC rotating siren. With the capability to reach a 5200-foot radius, the new siren will provide Oakdale with a top advanced warning system for adverse weather conditions and emergency notification to its volunteer fire department. No other emergency siren system is available for approximately 7 miles and neighboring communities are too far away to provide warning, making the new siren system essential to the protection of the residents of Oakdale.

The grant funds were provided through the USDA Rural Development Community Facility Grant Program. For additional information contact USDA Rural Development Specialist Jolene Kasper in the USDA Rural Development Office, 1909 Vicki Lane Suite 103 Norfolk, NE 68701 or phone (402) 371-5350. Visit <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/ne/>.

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