



NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture • Office of Communications • 1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20250-1300 • Voice: (202) 720-4623 • Email: oc.news@usda.gov • Web: <http://www.usda.gov>

Release No. 0050.03

Alisa Harrison (202) 720-4623

Taylor Oldroyd (202) 720-1019

Vicki Ritterling (402) 437-5563
Public Affairs Specialist, Lincoln, Neb.

VENEMAN ANNOUNCES \$12.8 MILLION IN RURAL DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE

Funds to Generate Economic And Community Development Activities in 10 States

WASHINGTON, Feb. 10, 2003 - Agriculture Secretary Ann M. Veneman today announced the selection of 21 loan and grant recipients in 10 states to receive more than \$12.8 million in rural economic and community development loan and grant funds. The funds are designed to assist in fostering economic and community development in rural areas.

“These funds provide new opportunities to spur economic investments in rural communities,” said Veneman. “These partnerships are helping create jobs and spur business growth in rural America.”

Veneman said that funds will assist 10 businesses in creating over 200 new jobs. In all, the loan and grant funds will assist with 19 community and business development opportunities. Business loans will be provided through USDA Rural Development’s [Rural Economic Development Loan Program](#) while grant funds are provided through the [Rural Economic Development Grant Program](#). Funding for community water infrastructure will be provided through USDA’s [Water and Environmental loan and grant programs](#).

Alabama - \$450,000

Iowa - \$1,219,300

Kansas - \$900,000

Kentucky - \$450,000

Minnesota - \$594,000

Nebraska - \$200,000*

North Dakota - \$668,000

South Dakota - \$450,000

Tennessee - \$1,200,000

Texas - \$6,722,600

“Improving access to quality and reliable water supplies along with supporting the creation of new jobs is a critical component of the Bush Administration’s commitment to rural families,” said Under Secretary for Rural Development Thomas Dorr. “These investments can help create a healthier and robust rural America.”

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USDA Rural Development is the lead federal entity for rural economic and community development needs. It administers financial and technical assistance through a network of state Rural Development offices, various non-profit and educational institutional partners, and its national office. Further information on these and other rural programs is available at a local USDA Rural Development office or by visiting USDA's web site at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/>. #

***Henderson Cooperative Telephone Company, Henderson, Neb. - \$200,000** economic development grant. Funds will be used to support a local revolving loan fund that will assist in the completion a new medical clinic. The clinic is expected to add six additional jobs to the current workforce of 115 employees.

USDA Rural Development is an Equal Opportunity Lender, Provider and Employer. Complaints of discrimination should be sent to USDA, Director, OCR, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410.