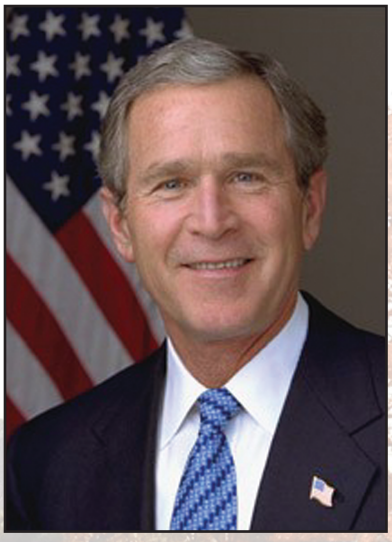
USDA Rural Development

New York Progress Report

Committed to the Future of Rural Communities

Investing in Rural New York

Say "New York" and the world envisions skyscrapers, pavement, cars and a sea of faces – the spreading sprawl of "the city that never sleeps." Yet rural New York covers more than eighty percent of the state's thirty-one million acres, and is home to more people than the entire populations of twenty-six other states. New York USDA Rural Development's mission is to create economic development opportunities and improve the living environment for the millions who choose to make rural New York their home.



Under the leadership of President George W. Bush and Secretary of Agriculture Ann Veneman, USDA Rural Development has invested over $625 million in rural New York communities and businesses in the past three years. USDA Rural Development is committed to the future of rural communities across this geographically and culturally rich state. We are engaged in improvement projects ranging, it's been said, "…from sewers to symphonies." Through the efforts of our able and dedicated staff, New York USDA Rural Development will help keep rural New York a special place, now and in the future.

Patrick H. Brennan
State Director

TOTAL INVESTMENTS IN RURAL NEW YORK

2001 — 2003:	$625,650,129*
Business Programs	$122,739,572
Community Programs	$334,211,931
Housing Programs	$168,698,626

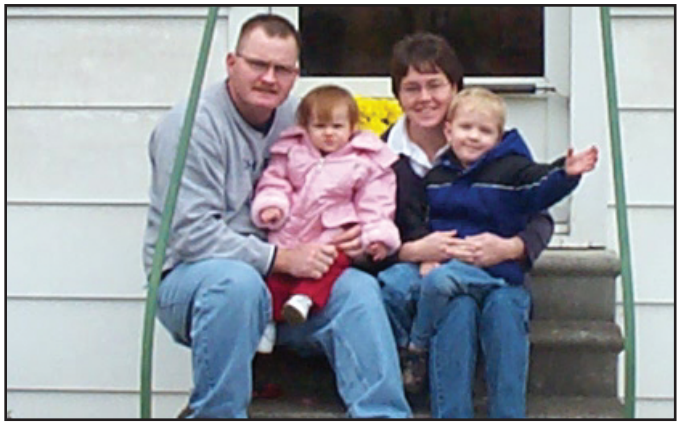
***Created/Retained* 4,715 jobs**

***Program totals include guaranteed and leveraged funding.**

Rural Development Housing Programs

USDA Rural Development's housing programs offer a variety of affordable options to people in rural communities. From loans and rental assistance provided by the **Multi-Family Housing Program** to grants and loans provided by the **Single Family Housing Program**, USDA Rural Development ensures that rural residents have access to safe and affordable dwellings.

Family Finds Homeownership All They Had Hoped For...



...And More!

Until a sister-in-law told them about USDA Rural Development, Jesse and Michelle Stuve wondered how they would realize their dream of home-ownership. The Stuves filed an application with USDA Rural Development's Ellicottville Office. Now they are proud owners of a home with a big yard for their two children. To their surprise, their mortgage payments are less than their previous rent payments.

Grants Help Seniors

Mary DeNardo received a grant for a new well with assistance from William Coles of USDA Rural Development's Binghamton Office (above left). Brian Murray of USDA Rural Development's Canton Office, along with the **St. Lawrence Community Development Program**, **Ministries of the North Country**, and the **Town of Lisbon** helped Joyce King acquire a newer model mobile home, new septic system, and a new well. Ms. King (above right) is shown in her new home with Patrick Brennan, USDA Rural Development State Director.

In Fiscal Year 2003, $62 million in direct, guaranteed, and leveraged funding was distributed. Funding was provided to 551 low- and moderate-income families to purchase homes through the **Direct and Guaranteed Single Family Housing Programs**. Essential repairs, weatherization and renovations were made to 279 homes of very-low-income households. **New York State was No. 1** in the nation with seven **Multi-Family Housing** projects funded, representing a total of 200 new apartments for low-income families and elderly/disabled households. Through an innovative partnership with the New York State Division of Housing and Community Renewal (DHCR) and the private sector, USDA Rural Development is able to help a greater number of rural New York families.

Community Rallies to Provide New Home

In April 2003, a wind and ice storm severely damaged Olivia Willmer's 49-year-old trailer. A friend, Jan Plank, rallied support and several agencies and friends joined forces to provide a new mobile home. Donna Rugino of USDA Rural Development assisted with a grant to remove the old trailer, install block skirting around the new mobile home, install a new well and septic, and replace the existing electrical system. On June 3, 2003, a grateful Ms. Willmer welcomed friends and representatives of the cooperating agencies to the dedication of her new home.

Above (from left): Matt Ecker, New York State Division of Housing and Community Renewal; Donna Rugino, USDA Rural Development; Patrick Brennan, USDA Rural Development State Director; homeowner Olivia Willmer; friend Jan Plank; and Tim Hodson, Cayuga County Homsite Development Corporation.

Rural Development Utilities and Community Programs

USDA Rural Development provides grants, low-interest loans, and technical assistance for projects that provide municipal water and wastewater systems, distance learning and telemedicine technology, child care facilities, and many other essential services. In Fiscal Year 2003, USDA Rural Development and partner agencies invested over $71 million in projects that allow thousands to enjoy the benefits of living and working in rural New York's family-friendly communities without sacrificing modern conveniences and state-of-the-art technology.

Clean Drinking Water for Town

In Fiscal Year 2003, the **Town of Brutus** (Cayuga County) received over $1 million in grant and low-interest loan funds from USDA Rural Development for a municipal water system extension. In 2002, USDA Rural Development provided over $1.9 million and the **Governor's Office for Small Cities** contributed $340,000. The project, when completed in 2004, will bring safe, sufficient supplies of potable water to 530 households.

At left (from left to right): Marcy Newman and Katherine McCoy, USDA Rural Development; Robert Ward, Town Councilman; Sue Dwyer, Staff Mgr., Rep. Sherwood Boehlert's Office; Patrick Brennan, USDA Rural Development State Director; Ann Petrus, Director, Cayuga County Water & Sewer Authority; John Ozolins, Town Supervisor; and Bob Oaks, New York State Assemblyman.

"Hopefully, someday soon the sidewalk will be free from sewage and our school children will be able to use them instead of walking along this very busy highway."

"My family ran a very productive restaurant in the town, but because we had…problems setting up a waste removal method, we lost this business."

"I can't imagine our Town ever attracting any…businesses without sewer and/or water."

—Excerpts from letters of support for the Town of Jasper Sanitary Sewer System

Partnership Makes Town of Jasper Wastewater System Feasible

Through the efforts of the **New York State Water and Sewer Infrastructure Co-Funding Committee**, the Town of Jasper (Steuben County) was able to find affordable financing for a sanitary sewage system. **USDA Rural Development**, along with the **Appalachian Regional Commission**, the **Governor's Office for Small Cities**, and the **Clean Water State Revolving Loan Fund**, provided 74 percent of the $2.8 million project in grant funds. The system will serve 262 residents, 20 small businesses and institutions, and the 305 students and staff of Jasper-Troupsburg High School.

New Facility Consolidates Services for Senior Citizens

USDA Rural Development's **Community Facilities Direct Loan Program** helped finance a new complex for the **Madison County Office for the Aging, Inc.** in Canastota with a $1 million low-interest loan. The facility, which consolidates many services offered to area seniors, includes a state-of-the-art kitchen used to prepare food for the **SNACK (Senior Nutrition And County Kitchen)** program. SNACK delivers meals to over 400 senior citizens daily. Built to new energy efficiency standards, the building has a large conference room, maintenance-free exterior, ample parking, and is accessible to people with disabilities. Pictured at left, Patricia Brophy is shown preparing food in the new kitchen. In Fiscal Year 2003, USDA Rural Development and partner agencies financed over $22 million for essential community facilities.

Rural Development Business Programs

USDA's rural business and cooperative programs foster a dynamic business climate in rural New York through grants, direct loans, loan guarantees, and technical assistance. In Fiscal Year 2003, these programs contributed over $49 million to finance rural businesses, entrepreneurs, revolving loan funds, and to launch the **Farm Viability Institute at Cornell University.**

Value-Added Agricultural Product Market Development Grants

Seven applicants received grants in Fiscal Year 2003 totaling $709,335:

- **Agri-Mark, Inc.** (Franklin Co.)
  Working capital for in-store cheese sampling.
- **Appleton Creek Winery** (Niagara Co.)
  Working capital to expand brand awareness.
- **Elderberry Pond** (Cayuga Co.)
  Working capital to operate organic restaurant.
- **High Falls Gardens** (Columbia Co.)
  Planning grant to determine feasibility of direct marketing of Chinese Medicinal Botanicals.
- **ProFac Cooperative** (Monroe Co.)
  Working capital to develop seed-to-store tracking system for potatoes.
- **Schoharie County Cooperative Dairies**
  Planning grant to identify niche market for processed dairy products.
- **Upstate Farms Cooperative** (Erie Co.)
  Planning grant to identify new whey markets.

Renewable Energy & Energy Efficiency Grants

In Fiscal Year 2003, eighteen **Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency** grant applications from New York farms and small businesses were approved for a total of $2.9 million. Included in the projects are anaerobic digesters, wood/bio-mass systems, a wind turbine, and systems that reduce the energy required to spread manure. In the photo above, State Director Patrick Brennan addresses the grant recipients and onlookers at a ceremony hosted by grant recipient **Oakwood Dairy, LLC** in Auburn, Cayuga County. **New York was No. 2 in the nation** in grants awarded.

Ice Cream Company Receives Funds for Expansion—Jobs Created and Retained in Two States

USDA Rural Development staff in New York and Vermont worked with **Ellsworth Ice Cream, Inc.** of Saratoga Springs (Saratoga County), New York to obtain a **Business & Industry Guaranteed Loan** from Merchants Bank of Brattleboro, Vermont. The 70-year-old family-owned business was then able to purchase a plant in North Springfield, Vermont vacated by Ben & Jerry's. Ellsworth Ice Cream will hire many workers who lost their jobs when the former plant closed. Jobs at the New York facility will remain stable and the **USDA Small Farms Initiative** will be supported by providing a market for over fifty million pounds of dairy products annually. At left is the Ellsworth Ice Cream plant in Saratoga Springs, New York.

USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT NEW YORK OFFICES

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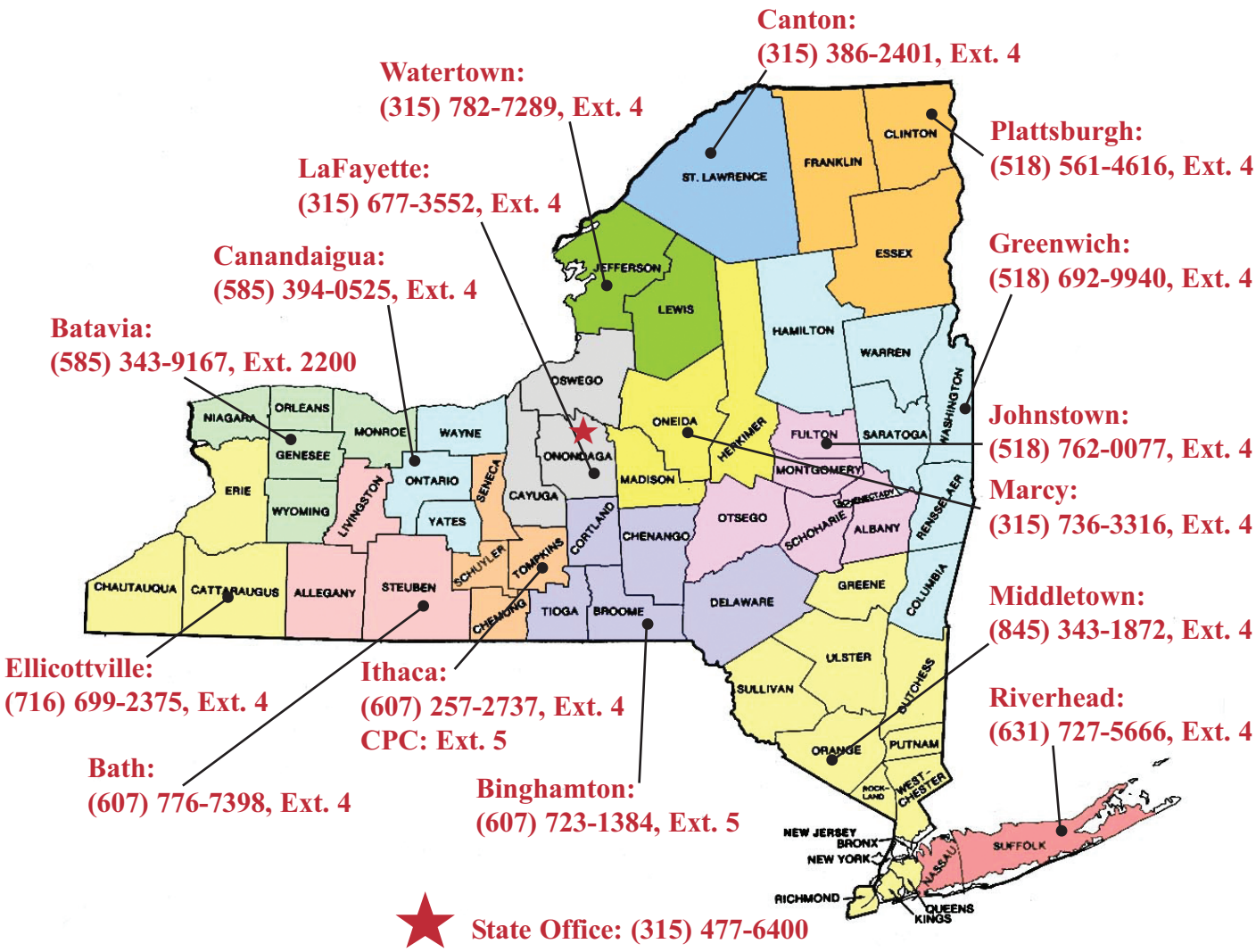

Photo credits:
Photos of the Lisbon Volunteer Fire Department event (cover) and of State Director Patrick Brennan and Ms. King (Rural Development Housing Programs page) are provided courtesy of the Ogdensburg Journal. The Madison Windpower Project photo (cover) is provided courtesy of Carl and Bonnie Stone.

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