



NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture • Rural Development
Federal Bldg. 200 North High Street, Columbus, OH 43215

Phone: (614) 255-2394 • Fax: (614) 255-2559 • TDD: (614) 255-2554 • Web: <http://www.rurdev.usda.govohj>

Release # 08-06-01

Contact: Michael Jones 614-255-2394
michael.jones@oh.usda.gov

Federal, State Teamwork Secures \$1.4 Million Infusion, Ensures Local Business Development and Job Retention

COLUMBUS, OHIO, AUGUST 28, 2006 – Ohio’s legislative, federal and state economic development proponents celebrated the award of a \$1.4 million financial assistance package that helped two local businesses improve operations and secure employment opportunities for more than 25 Ohio families.

“There’s no magic pill to turn Ohio’s economic fortunes around,” said Congresswoman Deborah Pryce whose 15th District includes businesses receiving federal economic assistance. “Helping small businesses like these achieve operational success is a key component in Ohio’s blueprint to recapture our prosperity. Programs like this one offered by Rural Development will help us accomplish our goal.”

Northwind Safety Corporation and Halliday Technologies are both Union County businesses. They will use the funding to construct new 12,000 square foot manufacturing facilities that will consolidate and improve daily operations. Northwind manufacturers and distributes safety and first aid equipment. Halliday produces a highly accurate friction detection device designed to improve the efficiency of winter snow and ice removal from Ohio’s roads.

Each company received approximately \$700,000 through USDA Rural Development’s Business and Industry Guaranteed Loan Program. During FY 2005 Ohio’s program invested more than \$40 million throughout the state. The program targeted assistance to businesses in need and loans ranged from \$50,000 to as much as \$10 million.

“We had no idea USDA Rural Development provided economic assistance to businesses,” said Northwind President Bryan Smilges. “Their program certainly helped us improve production capacity and efficiency. I’m sure there are business owners, or those thinking about starting a business who would benefit from investigating how Rural Development might be able to help them as well.”

A unique aspect of this financing package was the cooperation between the lender, Commercial National Bank, and the Federal Agricultural Mortgage Corporation (Farmer Mac). This business arrangement between Farmer Mac and lending institutions expands the institution’s lending capability while increasing financing options for business in rural areas.

-more-

Committed to the future of rural communities.

“USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender.”

To file a complaint of discrimination write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 14th and Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (202) 720-5964 (voice or TDD).

“The success of our rural communities is undeniably linked to the strength of their economic base,” said Rural Business Program Acting Administrator Jackie Gleason. “The boost provided from the compatibility of USDA and Farmer Mac programs is a tangible example of how federal programs can achieve the purpose for which they were conceived.”

USDA Rural Development serves as the lead federal entity for rural development needs, and administers program assistance through three agencies: Rural Housing Service, Rural Business-Cooperative Service, and Rural Utilities Service. Further information on USDA Rural Development can be obtained by contacting any USDA Service Center or by visiting USDA's web site at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov>.

-#-