



# 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.gov>

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Contact: Michael Jones 614-255-2394  
[michael.jones@oh.usda.gov](mailto:michael.jones@oh.usda.gov)

## Rural Development Celebrates Home Ownership Month Families, Service Providers Honored for Stellar Service

**COLUMBUS, OHIO, JUNE 28, 2006** – The United States Department of Agriculture’s Ohio Rural Development Findlay Office sponsored a home ownership event/celebration in recognition of June as National Home Ownership Month. Rural Development Housing Administrator Russ Davis visited from Washington, DC to help highlight the event.

“Helping more families join the ranks of home owners and sharing in the American Dream is one of the president’s foundational initiatives,” said Davis. “Efforts both nationally and locally have included partners like those here today to help energize rural citizens to share in the benefits of the nation’s strengthening economy.”

Representatives from many of Rural Development’s partners were present to offer their insights into the coordinated efforts Ohio is undertaking to increase rural home ownership. Professionals from local housing authorities, lending institutions, counseling and community development discussed how critical Ohio’s housing partnerships are and the quality of life impact provided to Ohio families.

Since the beginning of this fiscal year USDA Rural Development has invested \$1.7 billion to help more than 21,000 families buy a home. More than 250,000 new homeowners were added through the investment of more than \$21 billion during fiscal years 2001-2005.

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>.

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