



NEWS RELEASE

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USDA Rural Development Funds Equipment Purchase to Help with Road Maintenance

COLUMBUS, OHIO, Feb. 21, 2007 – Randall Hunt, state director for USDA Rural Development announced today approval of an \$89,000 Community Facilities grant to Valley Township in Guernsey, Ohio. The township will use the funding to purchase a new tractor to help with road maintenance.

“Rural Development’s Community Facilities grants play a vital role in helping rural communities respond to needs requiring immediate attention,” said Hunt. “Our Community Facilities Program invested more than \$12.8 million during Fiscal Year 2006 to help rural communities throughout Ohio improve their overall quality of life.”

The total cost for the tractor is \$90,000. Valley Township contributed \$1,000 to help with the purchase.

The Community Facilities Program uses grants and loans to help communities develop essential facilities for public use. These facilities include schools, libraries, childcare, hospitals, medical clinics, assisted living facilities, fire and rescue stations, police stations, community centers, public buildings and transportation.

USDA Rural Development's mission is to deliver programs in a way that will support increasing economic opportunity and improve the quality of life of rural residents. Rural Development provides equity and technical assistance to finance and foster growth in homeownership, business development, and critical community and technology infrastructure.

Further information on rural programs is available by calling 614-255-2400, visiting a local USDA Rural Development office or by viewing USDA's web site at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov>.

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