



# NEWS RELEASE

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## USDA Rural Development Funding Helps Local Community Maintain its Roads

**COLUMBUS, OHIO, Feb. 21, 2007** – Randall Hunt, state director for USDA Rural Development announced today approval of a \$35,000 Community Facilities grant to York Township in Belmont, Ohio. The township will use the funding to purchase a backhoe for use in maintenance of its roads.

“Rural Development’s Community Facilities grants help communities meet critical support needs that are often beyond their normal budgeting capability,” 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 backhoe is \$65,100. York Township contributed \$18,100 toward the purchase and Belmont County added \$12,000 through Community Development Block Grants.

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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