



TENNESSEE RURAL DEVELOPMENT FY 2003 Annual Report



*“Safe and Clean Water Comes to Stony Fork Community”
Campbell County Tennessee*



*Presentation at
Stony Fork
School*



Creating Partnerships Throughout Rural Tennessee

www.rurdev.usda.gov/tn



Ann Veneman
Secretary of Agriculture

The Bush Administration has made great strides in supporting investments in America's rural communities. From the successful implementation of the 2002 Farm Bill to passage of the Healthy Forest Restoration Act, President Bush's policy is helping strengthen the economic health of rural America.

Also fueling this growth are the programs being implemented by USDA Rural Development. Through USDA Rural Development programs, it is estimated that over 510,000 jobs have been created or saved since the beginning of the Bush Administration. USDA has invested nearly \$2.5 billion for rural business development in the form of loans, grants, and technical assistance. Major investments have been made in developing value-added industries, with a focus on promoting renewable energy. Over \$35 million has been provided to support the development and marketing of renewable energy and the creation of energy efficient systems in rural areas.

Rural infrastructure, such as education, healthcare, telecommunications, water treatment and community facilities, has been supported by more than \$13 billion in grants and loans. More than \$10.2 billion has been invested in rural housing, much of which supports the President's ambitious goal to increase minority homeownership by \$5.5 million by 2010.

As we look to the future, we remain dedicated to ensuring that investments in rural **Tennessee** continue to bring new economic opportunities and an improved quality of life to rural families and communities.

Citizens and community leaders throughout rural America share a common desire to bring economic opportunity and an improved quality of life to their community. There is a remarkable cohesiveness among rural citizens that allows the energy and enthusiasm of local citizens to harness the resources needed to bring solutions to economic and social issues facing their community.

As rural America's venture capital bank, USDA Rural Development seeks to support local efforts by providing financing to create housing business development, technology and community infrastructure and essential community facilities. Over the last year, the Bush Administration through USDA Rural Development has provided over \$1.3 billion in capital financing to assist rural citizens and communities invest in their future.



Gilbert Gonzalez
Acting Under Secretary
for Rural Development

USDA Rural Development capital investments in FY 2003 includes; assisting over 43,000 families realize their dream of homeownership; assisting over 100 rural agri-businesses with financing of energy efficiency and renewable energy systems that support energy independence for America and that supports President Bush's national energy plan; assisting with the financing of over 12,000 business ventures to create or save nearly 90,000 jobs; and assisting with the financing of community infrastructure and facilities that will benefit an estimated 7 million rural citizens. In total, over 350,000 jobs are expected to be created or saved as a result of the financing provided by USDA Rural Development.

USDA Rural Development has a dedicated team of professional with over 40 financial and technical assistance programs available to assist rural communities improve their economic opportunities and an improved quality of life. I encourage you to contact our staff in **Tennessee** to learn more about ways that USDA Rural Development can be of assistance to you and your community.

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