USDA/Rural Development

3251 North Highway, 123 Bypass, Seguin, Texas • e-mail: Cliff.Lehmann@tx.usda.gov
voice: (830) 372-1043 • fax: (830) 372-0020 • TDD: 254-742-9712 - Web Site: http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/tx/

News Release

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For More Information Contact:
Cliff Lehmann

USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT ANNOUNCES GRANT FUNDING FOR HOUSING RENOVATION IN CALDWELL COUNTY

Lockhart, Texas, March 24, 2003--Bryan Daniel, Texas State Director, USDA Rural Development today announced that Caldwell County was awarded a $125,000 Housing Preservation Grant (HPG). Rural Housing Service, an agency that falls under the USDA Rural Development mission area, administers programs designed to strengthen the economy and infrastructure of rural areas. Through its support of the sustainable development of communities, USDA Rural Development works to improve the quality of life in rural America.

"USDA Rural Development is very pleased to be able to provide housing rehabilitation funding for rural Texans," said Daniel. "It is our goal to ensure rural residents are afforded an opportunity to live in decent housing that meets basic health and safety standards and provides the benefits of energy efficient features."

USDA funds will be used to assist 8 families with essential septic tank installations. Homes of the low income and elderly in the rural areas within the unincorporated areas of Caldwell County will be targeted for septic tank installation. The County estimates an average of $8,500 for installation of a system, with an additional $2,000 per home for the installation of bathroom facilities. A maximum of $15,000 is established for properties that require extensive improvements.

The purpose of the HPG program is to promote sustainable economic development in rural communities by making grants to sponsoring organizations for the repair or rehabilitation of low and very-low income housing. Grants are competitive and are made available in areas where there is a concentration of need.

For more information regarding USDA Rural Development programs, contact the USDA Local Service Center in Seguin at (830) 372-1043, ext. 4.

USDA Rural Development is an Equal Opportunity Lender, Provider, and Employer. Complaints of discrimination should be sent to: USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410.

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The USDA Rural Development mission area was created in 1994 and includes the Rural Business-Cooperative Service, the Rural Housing Service, and the Rural Utilities Service. Its mission is to use the resources of USDA to provide an improved quality of life for the nation's 53 million rural people.

For more information on USDA Rural Development programs in Texas, check our web site at http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/tx/.

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