USDA/Rural Development

714 West Gibson, Suite 1, Jasper, Texas • e-mail: Linda.Brakebill@tx.usda.gov
voice: (409)384-5779• fax: (409) 384-7079 • TDD: 254-742-9712 - Web Site: http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/tx/

News Release

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For More Information Contact:
Linda Brakebill

USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT ANNOUNCES FUNDING FOR WEST HARDIN WATER SUPPLY CORPORATION

West Hardin, Texas, September 9, 2003— Bryan Daniel, state director, Texas USDA Rural Development announces today that West Hardin Water Supply Corporation received a $1,348,000 loan through the agency's Rural Utilities Service Water and Waste Disposal Loan program. The effort is part of USDA's national program to help provide rural areas with safe, dependable water and modern sewage systems.

"One of the goals of USDA Rural Development is to provide water and wastewater treatment programs that target public health benefits and provide economic opportunities to America's rural communities," said Daniel. "Rural residents can utilize our programs to help provide essential public services that will enhance their quality of life."

The funds will be used to make improvements to the plants and distribution system. Improvements include a new well and numerous improvements at the two existing plants. The population of the area is 3,135.

In Fiscal Year 2002, $91.7 million of loan and grant assistance was infused into 61 projects and 106,000 rural Texas households. USDA Rural Development's water and wastewater program is designed to bring fresh, clean drinking water and sanitary, environmentally sound sewage facilities to rural America's 53 million residents. Loans and grants are available to rural communities with fewer than 10,000 residents. Public bodies, corporations operated on a nonprofit basis, and Indian tribes, that are unable to obtain credit from other sources at reasonable rates and terms, are eligible for assistance.

For more information regarding USDA Rural Development programs, contact the Jasper Local Office at (409)384-5779, 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.

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