



NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture • Rural Development

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Date: October 7, 2004

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TX. 003.05

USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT ANNOUNCES NATIONAL COOPERATIVE MONTH

TEMPLE, Texas, October 7, 2004 – Texas USDA Rural Development State Director, Bryan Daniel, announced today that October is National Co-op Month. Since 1930, each October, cooperatives all across America celebrate their role, accomplishments and contributions to the nation and their local communities members.

“Every year, cooperatives across America observe the role, accomplishments and assistance of our nation’s cooperatives,” said Daniel. “Cooperatives have created jobs and enhanced the quality of life for rural communities. We are pleased with the contributions cooperatives have made to the residents in Texas.”

There are over 48,000 cooperatives in the United States and over 850 million members worldwide. Cooperatives are owned by local consumers and operate in every industry including energy, telecommunications, farm, food and credit unions. This year’s theme, “**Cooperatives: Owned by Our Members, Committed to Our Communities**,” encourages co-ops to highlight the contributions they have made for their communities. For more information on Co-op month, visit the www.co-opmonth.coop site.

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USDA Rural Development was created in 1994 and includes Business Programs, Housing Programs, and Community Programs. Its mission is to use the resources of USDA to provide an improved quality of life for the nation’s rural residents.

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

Committed to the future of rural communities.

“USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender.”

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