USDA/Rural Development

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USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT TACKLES RURAL ISSUES

Temple, Texas, March 19, 2004—Bryan Daniel, State Director for the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Development recently returned to Texas from Washington, D.C., where he participated in a series of high level rural economic and community development meetings with key White House, Congressional, and USDA officials. The meetings focused on ways to support rural job creation, homeownership, business development, and public utility and community infrastructure needs in rural Texas.

Daniel said "USDA Rural Development will concentrate on providing staff resources and financial assistance in key areas to continue economic growth, job creation and provide support for rural families in Texas." To accomplish this, USDA Rural Development will: 1) utilize USDA Rural Development funds and partnership financing to increase the level of rural homeownership; 2) promote, through business and industry loan guarantees, value-added agricultural grants, and other programs, expansion of local business ventures and job creation; and 3) expand community access to information technology for business development and advanced health and educational services by building technology infrastructure.

USDA Rural Development seeks to support local efforts by providing financing to create housing, business development, and essential community facilities. In FY 2003, more than $280 million were invested into rural Texas.

"USDA Rural Development programs deliver the tools needed to help develop vibrant, sustainable communities for you and your children. We have helped to provide improved water service for more than 61,000 rural households, better healthcare facilities and public safety equipment provided to more than 46 different communities; more than 1,400 jobs were created and saved; alternate energy sources were created, and affordable housing brought to more than 1,800 rural families in Texas in 2003", said Daniel.

Daniel urges communities to take advantage of USDA Rural Development programs. "If you feel one of our programs can help you or your community, I urge you to contact one of our offices. Our staff is ready to help you," said Daniel.

Contact the USDA Rural Development State Office at (254) 742-9710 or your local USDA Rural Development Office generally listed in the blue pages of phone directories. Visit: http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/tx.

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