USDA Rural Development NEWS RELEASE

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USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT TO HOLD FORUM ON AVAILABLE PROGRAMS

HUNTSVILLE, TEXAS, May 12, 2004 –Bryan Daniel, State Director for Texas USDA Rural Development today announced a series of statewide forums to present communities with information on the many programs available from USDA Rural Development. The forums will be open to all current customers, prospective customers, and all other interested individuals and entities.

The forum for Harris, Montgomery, Walker, San Jacinto, Liberty, Chambers, Jefferson, Orange, Hardin, and Galveston counties will be held Wednesday, May 12, 2004, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon at the First National Bank, Flag Room, 6th Floor, 1300 11th Street, Huntsville, Texas. The session will feature a presentation and discussion of all USDA Rural Development programs, in both direct and guaranteed lending opportunities for rural utilities, community facilities, business and industry, single family and multi-family housing.

"USDA Rural Development is committed to making its programs and services available to all rural Texans, including individuals, small businesses, municipalities, community based organizations and traditionally underserved portions of the population. Through its support of sustainable development of communities, USDA Rural Development works to improve the quality of life in rural Texas," said Daniel.

USDA Rural Development's mission is to increase economic opportunity and improve the quality of life in rural communities throughout Texas. Through the numerous programs offered by USDA Rural Development, communities can improve the flow of capital to businesses and address the essential needs of housing, water, education and health care.

There is no cost to attend and all interested individuals are invited. To learn more or to make reservations to attend the forum, please call USDA Rural Development in Angleton, Texas, at 979-849-5251, ext. 4.

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

USDA Rural Development was created in 1994 and includes business programs, housing programs, and utilities 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/.