NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture • Rural Development
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USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT ANNOUNCES FUNDING TO REPAIR HOMES

DE LEON, TEXAS, June 25, 2004 – Margie Gleaton, Area Director for USDA Rural Development, announced today three grants under the agency's single family home repair program.

Juanez Branscum received $1945 and Rosa Gooden received $2327 in USDA Rural Development grants to make repairs to their homes in De Leon. To highlight the successes of USDA Rural Development's housing programs, Community County Rehab has provided volunteer labor all week, June 22 through June 25, to install roofs, storm windows, doors, fascia boards, and paint for the homeowners.

For very low-income families who own homes in need of repair, the Home Repair Loan and Grant Program offers loans and grants for renovation. The Home Repair Program also provides funds to make a home accessible to someone with disabilities. Money may be provided, for example, to repair a leaking roof, to replace a wood stove with central heating, to construct a front-door ramp for someone using a wheelchair, or to install plumbing for a bathroom or a waste disposal system. Homeowners who are 62 years and older are eligible for home improvement grants. Other low-income families and individuals receive loans at a 1% interest rate directly from USDA Rural Development.

The Single-Family Housing Program provides homeownership opportunities to low and moderate-income rural Americans through several loan, grant, and guarantee programs. The program also makes funding available to individuals to finance vital improvements necessary to make their homes decent, safe, and sanitary. Under the direct loan program, individuals or families receive direct financial assistance from USDA Rural Development in the form of a home loan at an affordable interest rate. Since USDA Rural Development is able to make loans to those who will not qualify for a conventional loan, the direct loan program enables many more people to buy homes than might otherwise be possible. Direct loans may be made for the purchase of an existing home or for new home construction.

For more information or to request an application for one of the programs described above please contact the local servicing in Brownwood by calling 325-643-1585, extension 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.

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/.

Committed to the future of rural communities.

"USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender."
To file a complaint of discrimination write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 14th and Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (202) 720-5964 (voice or TDD).