



NEWS RELEASE

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USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT ANNOUNCES FUNDING FOR LEON-BOSQUE RESOURCE CONSERVATION & DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

GLEN ROSE, TEXAS, June 10, 2005 – USDA Rural Development, State Director, Bryan Daniel, announced today that Leon-Bosque Resource Conservation & Development Council has been awarded a \$100,000 Rural Business Enterprise Grant through the agency’s Business Programs. USDA Rural Development is charged with assisting rural communities by administering programs targeted to strengthening the economy and infrastructure of rural areas.

“We are pleased to fund this project,” said Daniel. “One of our goals is to provide rural communities with access to financial resources. We are proud that USDA Rural Development’s programs play a role in the growth of rural economies, and increase job opportunities for rural Texans and their families. This grant will assist Bosque, Brown, Callahan, Comanche, Eastland, Erath, Hamilton, Hood, Mills, Palo Pinto, Shackelford, Somervell, and Stephens counties by providing additional economic stability for the region.”

USDA Rural Development funds will be used to create a revolving loan fund to assist small and emerging businesses in this area. Businesses that qualify for these loans will be able to retain existing jobs, create new jobs, and employ low to moderate income individuals. This grant will create and save approximately 50 jobs in the Leon-Bosque Resource Conservation & Development Council area.

Potential businesses in rural communities interested in the RBEG program must employ 50 or fewer new employees; have less than \$1 million in projected gross revenue; have or will utilize technological innovations or commercialize new products that can be produced or manufactured in rural areas; or have new processes that can be used in such production. Public bodies and not-for-profit entities including federally recognized Indian Tribes located in rural areas or in communities under 50,000 in population are eligible. Priority is given to applicants from communities of 25,000 residents or less.

USDA Rural Development works to ensure that rural citizens can participate fully in the global marketplace, by providing programs that assist rural Americans in building strong economies and to improve their quality of life. For more information regarding USDA Rural Development Programs, contact the Edna Local Office at 361-782-7151, Ext. 4, or visit our website at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/tx/>.

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Committed to the future of rural communities.

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