



# NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture • Rural Development  
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## USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT ANNOUNCES RIBBON CUTTING

**WEST, TEXAS, February 9, 2006--** Bryan Daniel, USDA Rural Development State Director, today participated in a ribbon cutting event celebrating the completion of improvements to the water supply and distribution system operated by Menlow Water Supply Corporation. USDA Rural Development awarded \$908,000 to the project through the agency's Community Program's Water and Waste Disposal Loan and Grant program.

"Menlow Water Supply Corporation was organized in 1960 and we dug our first well in 1966. We were the second water system in Hill County to be financed through USDA with service to 58 households. With these newly completed upgrades, we are able to serve 165 households. This would not have been possible without the assistance of USDA Rural Development. Their financial assistance has helped us help the rural residents in this area immensely," said L. B. Etter, President of Menlow WSC.

"The USDA Rural Development Water and Waste Disposal Programs target public health benefits and economic opportunities in America's rural communities," said Daniel. "Projects such as this one in Hill County will help make the environment cleaner and protect the public health for local residents."

In Fiscal Year 2005, \$80.7 million of loan and grant assistance was distributed throughout rural Texas to 315,249 households. USDA Rural Development's Water and Waste Disposal Program is designed to bring fresh, clean drinking water and sanitary, environmentally sound sewage facilities to rural America's 53 million residents. Loans and grants are available to rural communities with fewer than 10,000 residents. Public bodies, corporations operating on a non-profit basis, and Indian tribes, that are unable to obtain credit from other sources at reasonable rates and terms, are eligible for assistance.

USDA Rural Development was created in 1994 to serve Texas' more than 3.6 million rural residents. For further information regarding USDA Rural Development Programs, contact the Hillsboro Local Office at (254) 582-7328, Extension 4, or visit our website at <http://rurdev.usda.gov/tx/>.



Left to Right:

Terri Blevins, USDA Rural Development; Charlie Pavlas, Kevin Nors, Ronny Pustejovsky, Victor Pavlas, L.B. Etter, Menlow WSD; Daniel Nichols, Congressman Chet Edwards' office; Bryan Daniel, USDA Rural Development State Director; Michael Prasifka, Menlow WSC; Johnny Smith, Rural Development.

Committed to the future of rural communities.

"USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender."

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