



NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture • Rural Development
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USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT TO HOLD OFFICE DAY IN DECATUR, TX

DECATUR, TEXAS, September 5, 2006 - Representatives of USDA Rural Development will hold an office day in Decatur on Wednesday, September 20, 2006, to provide information, assist with applications, and answer questions regarding the Housing, Community and Business Programs offered by the agency. The event will be held at the USDA Service Center located at 1604 W Bus 380, Ste 100 Decatur, Texas, from 8:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

There are several USDA Rural Development Housing Programs available to provide assistance to very-low, low and moderate-income applicants. Loans are available depending on repayment ability, acceptable credit and the location of the home or building site.

The Direct Housing Loan Program is designed to provide very-low and low-income applicants with financing to build, purchase, or repair homes to provide adequate affordable housing. Funds may also be used to modernize or repair a home already owned by an applicant. The Guaranteed Rural Housing Loan Program is for moderate-income applicants, however, income limits vary by the number of persons in a household.

Grant funds and loans are available to homeowners age 62 and over. Grant funds are used to remove health and safety hazards such as repairing roofs, heating, electrical, plumbing, water and waste disposal, handicapped accessibility, etc. The home repair loan amount cannot exceed \$20,000, and grant assistance may not exceed \$7,500. Loans under this program are made with a 1% interest rate and have a maximum term of 20 years.

USDA Rural Development Community Programs are designed to enhance the growth and economic opportunities of rural areas by providing the means for construction, expansion, or enhancement of community facilities, telecommunication and distance education programs, and water and waste disposal systems.

Entrepreneurship plays a vital role in the economic stability of rural Texas. With USDA Rural Development Business and Cooperative Programs, rural businesses can gain access funds that normally would not be available to them.

For more information regarding USDA Rural Development programs, contact the Decatur Local Office at (940)-627-3531, Ext. 4.

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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).