

# A good partnership recognized



## NEWS RELEASE

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### Kansas Rural Water Association Honored by USDA Rural Development

Topeka, Kan. – USDA Rural Development State Director Chuck Banks announced that the Kansas Rural Water Association (KRWA) has been honored by the Agency as an 'Outstanding Community Development Partner' during a recent visit to the Association's office at Seneca. The presentation was made to KRWA's General Manager, Elmer Ronnebaum, in recognition of the Association's valued partnership with USDA Rural Development and the Association's outstanding support of the Agency's water and environmental programs.

Kansas Rural Water Association provides training and technical assistance to water and wastewater utilities; KRWA has 17 staff members. "USDA Rural Development appreciates the opportunity to provide needed community and economic development programming for Kansas. To more effectively leverage these taxpayer-supported programs, the Agency partners with both the public and private sectors. The outstanding partnerships enjoyed by the Agency allow taxpayer dollars to return to Kansas, funding which is invested in our State to benefit all Kansans. We compliment the Kansas Rural Water Association's support of Agency programs," commented State Director Banks. In his remarks, Banks further stated, "USDA Rural Development's Water & Waste Disposal Program is one of the most important community and economic development efforts this Agency offers in Kansas. These USDA program funds, combined with the Agency's valuable technical assistance which supports local leadership, helps make these critically needed services a reality. It is important that rural Kansans have access to safe and reliable water sources. Not only does basic water service enhance the quality of life for the area residents served by these projects, this USDA program promotes added economic growth for all of Kansas," commented State Director Banks.

The recognition of KRWA was made during USDA Rural Development's current December tour across Kansas honoring outstanding partners who assist the Agency in delivering its various business and community development programs for Kansas. Over the past fifteen years USDA Rural Development's Water & Waste Disposal Program, in partnership with the KRWA, has benefited of 250,000 rural Kansans and supported over \$3.9 billion in Kansas economic growth.

USDA Rural Development's mission is to deliver programs that support increasing economic opportunity and improving the quality of life of the State's rural residents. The Agency provides equity and technical assistance to finance and foster growth in homeownership, business development, and critical community and technology infrastructure in rural America. During Fiscal Year 2005, USDA Rural Development provided nearly \$235 million in direct funding for community and economic development projects across rural Kansas.

For additional information regarding USDA Rural Development programs, individuals may call the Agency's state headquarters at 785-271-2700 or log onto the state's Agency Web site at: [www.rurdev.usda.gov/ks](http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/ks).