

Rural Development makes three check presentations locally

It's the first time Rural Development has made three check presentations for grants in one community



Funds will purchase storm sirens

State and regional officials from Rural Development were in Sedan last Wednesday to present checks to three different entities including the City of Sedan, The Chautauqua County Historical Society and the QUAD Facilitation organization. Show above (from left) are Sedan City Treasurer Linda McMillon, Chuck Banks, state director of Rural Development, and Sedan City Supt. John Miller as a check for \$7,400 is presented to help Sedan purchase new storm sirens.



Historical Society buys its own building

Using funds from a Rural Development grant, the Chautauqua County Historical and Genealogical Society recently purchased its own building in downtown Sedan. A check for \$41,000 was presented last week by Rural Development officials. Shown above are (from left): Carlotta Munson, Chuck Banks from Rural Development, Vonnie Cameron, Cheryl Hurst, Neal Troyer from Rural Development and Don Dilley.

Local projects recognized

Home ownership month provides backdrop for grant to QUAD

Topeka—USDA Rural Development has completed a three-day tour this week of southeast and southcentral Kansas, with 16 events in 13 communities. The agency's tour highlighted USDA Rural Development's housing and community facility programming efforts in association with National Homeownership Month during June.

USDA Rural Development State Director Chuck Banks, in remarks following this week's regional tour, commented, "Outstanding efforts are being undertaken across rural Kansas to enhance the opportunity for individuals and families to own their own home or have affordable, safe and adequate housing. Yet, the available supply of affordable housing in our rural communities still needs to be expanded. Increasing affordable housing opportunities helps to strengthen our families, improves economic development opportunities, and enhances a community's overall quality of life. USDA Rural Development has excellent financing programs to help very-low, low and moderate income individuals and families."

In addition to USDA's rural homeownership financing programs, the Agency's Community Facilities Program is

designed to develop essential community facilities for public use in rural areas. These facilities can include schools, libraries, courthouses, childcare, hospitals, medical clinics, fire and rescue facilities and equipment, police and emergency vehicles, community centers, public buildings and transportation, and storm sirens.

Banks further stated, "Improving local assets, such as health care services and fire protection, enhance the quality of life in communities. These USDA loan and grant programs are a tremendous tool available to rural communities to assist in developing these facilities."

Nita Jones with Q.U.A.D. Facilitation Board in Sedan said, "USDA Rural Development of Kansas stands for compassion for rural Kansas, the Agency that cares for rural communities. USDA Rural Development does an outstanding job of communicating and educating rural Kansas about partnerships available. The Agency's staff makes sure rural communities understand how working together with USDA can make a difference in rural Kansas."

Over 6,000 Kansans have received homebuyer education and homeownership financing assistance from USDA Rural

Development over the past five years. The Agency's regional housing and community facilities programming services are administered through the USDA Service Center in Newton, individuals can call this office at 316-283-0370 (extension #4) for more information.

USDA Rural Development will continue to tour the state during June to highlight numerous homeownership success stories and recognize outstanding Agency partners who assist in helping rural Kansans and Kansas communities.

USDA Rural Development's mission is to deliver programs that will support increasing economic opportunity and improve the quality of life of rural residents.

As a venture capital entity, 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. For additional information regarding USDA Rural Development programs, individuals can also call the Agency's state headquarters at 785-271-2700 or log onto the state's USDA Rural Development website at: www.rurdev.usda.gov/ks.



Eco-devo will be advanced with check

Members of the QUAD County Facilitation organization received a grant in the amount of \$25,000 to help with economic development in a five-county area including Chautauqua County. Pictured from left are: Jim Bruner, Gary Smith, Nita Jones, Randy Snyder, Jack Newcomb, Ben Allen, Chuck Banks, Ben Henry, Peggy McAfee, Chris Bauman, Janie Massolu and Alan Zadforozny.