

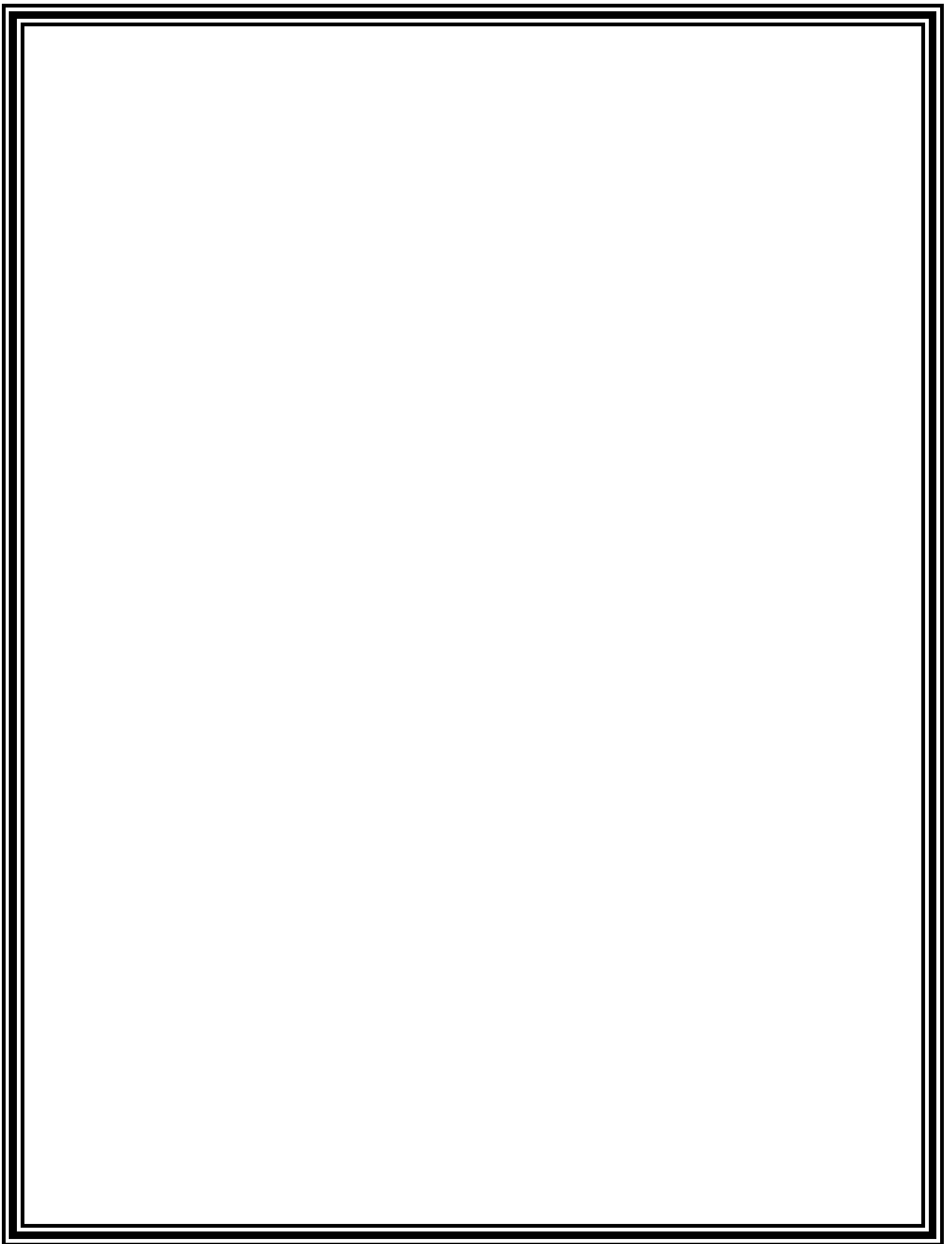
*U.S. Department of Agriculture
Small Business and AbilityOne
Award Ceremony*

***2008
Small Business and
AbilityOne
Award Winners***

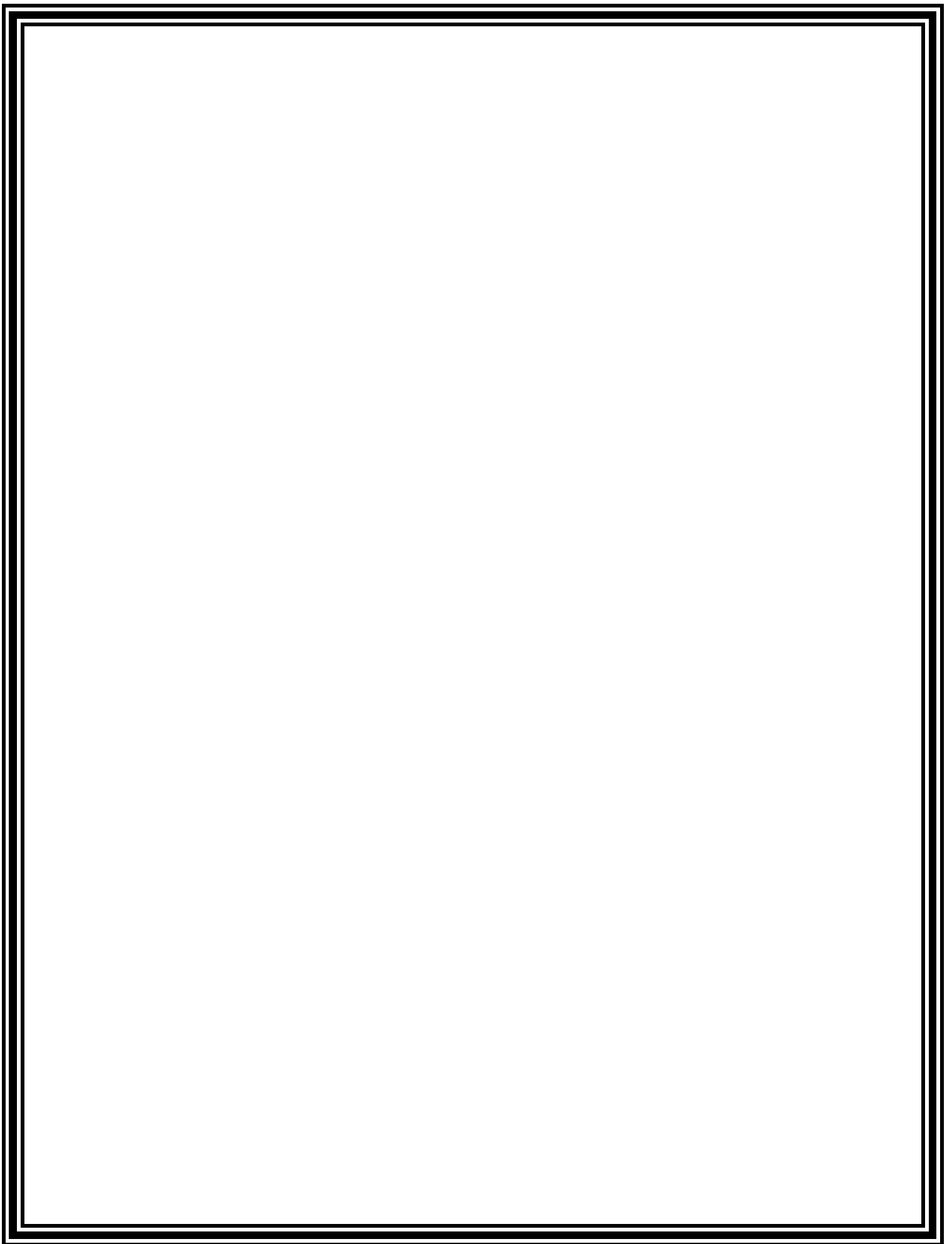
Profiles

*Presented by the
Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization*

*Wednesday, June 25, 2008
Patio, Jamie L. Whitten Building*



***SMALL BUSINESS
CONTRACTOR
AWARD WINNERS***



USDA
2008 SMALL BUSINESS CONTRACTOR
OF THE YEAR

KADIX SYSTEMS, LLC
ARLINGTON, VIRGINIA
FOOD SAFETY AND INSPECTION SERVICE

KADIX SYSTEMS is a woman-owned professional services firm founded in 2001. They provide innovative consulting and information technology solutions that deliver measurable performance improvements to their customers. The company is a leader in instructional design, training, and multimedia development services.

KADIX SYSTEMS assisted the Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) with training and subject matter expertise to meet its strategic workforce development objectives. They developed courses on subjects covering scientific, public health, management, and regulatory requirements tailored to meet the specific needs of the Agency.

KADIX SYSTEMS also created a technology-based performance management support tool that guides meat processing plants through each step of the Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point (HACCP) plan development process. This tool is a step-by-step process that assists companies in developing their plans and provides interactive screens, links to expert examples and more which then results in sounder plans being written. Improved HACCP plans allow companies to be better equipped to handle and produce products to meet Department of Agriculture (USDA) standards.

KADIX SYSTEMS also developed an electronic performance support tool to capture and address substantive issues of each processing plant's HACCP compliance. This saves time and reduces the amount of interpretation required of the user.

KADIX SYSTEMS closely monitored and controlled their projects and ensured customer satisfaction. All deliverables were submitted on or ahead of schedule and required minimal review or correction to be finalized. Their performance was outstanding and always presented in a very professional manner. *KADIX SYSTEMS* produced, according to their core values of integrity, professionalism and quality.

Daisy Laymen, CEO
oleroy@kadix.com
(703) 236-3000

USDA
AGENCY SMALL BUSINESS
AWARD WINNERS

BARQUIN INTERNATIONAL
WASHINGTON, D.C.
AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH SERVICE

BARQUIN INTERNATIONAL, founded in 1994, is a full-service business intelligence firm that develops client data management solutions. They assist organizations with planning, designing, implementing and operating knowledge management, e-government, information architecture, and data warehousing solutions and strategies.

BARQUIN INTERNATIONAL worked with the Cooperative State Research, Education and Extension Service (CSREES) to develop the Leadership Management Dashboard (LMD). The LMD provides a visual display of important information consolidated and arranged on a single screen and is a component of the CSREES Information System. The LMD allows National Program Leaders to easily monitor activities and changes. Once it is completed, it will be made available to other USDA agencies.

BARQUIN INTERNATIONAL consistently met all critical deadlines and has been one of the Agency's most courteous and responsive contractors. They were committed to performing at a high degree of professionalism and to building sound relationships.

Kelley Willitts, Director of Administration
kellew@barquin.com
(202) 296-7147

C-TECHNOLOGIES.NET, LLC
FAIRFAX, VIRGINIA
ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH INSPECTION SERVICE

C-TECHNOLOGIES.NET is an 8(a) business that provides certification and accreditation services, information security, Information Technology (IT) program design, and implementation and support services. They have expertise in IBM Websphere, Lotus Notes, Tivoli, Oracle and Microsoft and have partners with many additional IT credentials.

C-TECHNOLOGIES.NET provided the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) technical support and project management services on Lotus Notes Agency and Program systems. The company has interacted with program system users to administer and perform modifications of all systems and they have provided help desk support and training.

APHIS users were impressed by the dedication, resourcefulness, and customer service of *C-TECHNOLOGIES.NET*. The company provided responses that have technically been the best solutions for the Agency's requirements.

Samuel Clawson, Vice President Government Programs
Sam.Clawson@vtw.com
(703) 599-9030

***GEORGE F. BROCKE & SONS, INC.
KENDRICK, IDAHO
FARM SERVICE AGENCY***

GEORGE F. BROCKE & SONS is a family owned business that was founded in 1950 to prepare and market grass and clover. The company has diversified to process peas and lentils.

GEORGE F. BROCKE & SONS provides dry edible peas and lentils to the Farm Service Agency (FSA) for humanitarian food aid overseas. FSA food purchases address the needs of food security in both development projects and emergency food assistance programs. The sustenance provided helps alleviate food shortages resulting from all types of natural disasters, earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, cyclones, floods, droughts, fires, pest infestations, and disease outbreaks.

GEORGE F. BROCKE & SONS provided dependable service and supplied products timely and in good condition. The company's employees were very knowledgeable about their industry and were counted on to get the job done.

Dean Brocke, President
brockeco@tds.net
(208) 289-4231

***INFINITY CONFERENCE GROUP, INC.
HERNDON, VIRGINIA
FOOD AND NUTRITION SERVICE***

INFINITY CONFERENCE GROUP is a woman-owned business that was founded in 1991 to provide planning and event management services. The group coordinates all aspects of conference logistics.

INFINITY CONFERENCE GROUP worked with the Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) to manage contracts and services for several national conferences involving thousands of participants. Tasks included negotiating contracts for space, developing materials, managing registration services and payments, developing a web-site, managing speakers, and much more. They have successfully overcome issues relating to snowstorms and hurricane-related problems.

INFINITY CONFERENCE GROUP was very organized and sufficiently staffed to coordinate conference participants. They were experienced in solving problems expeditiously and smoothly. The company provided a high level of service to FNS.

Doreen Albertson, Founder and CEO
dalbertson@infinityconferences.com
(703) 925-9455

***KNOWLEDGEBANK, INC.
McLEAN, VIRGINIA
FARM SERVICE AGENCY***

KNOWLEDGEBANK is a Native American, 8(a) company established in 2003. The company provides human resources outsourcing and project services and specializes in work force/organizational planning, compensation, benefits, recruitment and selection, leadership assessment, and training.

KNOWLEDGEBANK conducted an examination of the Farm Service Agency (FSA) to identify opportunities for greater efficiency and economy. The company completed a “work plan”, and then was tasked to implement and complete the plan and produce an organizational assessment.

KNOWLEDGEBANK achieved the Agency’s objectives without interfering with ongoing operations. Their work was highly organized and insightful and conducted in a professional, efficient, and friendly manner.

Tom Wimer, President/CEO
twimer@knowledgebank.cc
(703) 448-8070

***SIGNS NOW #172
COLUMBIA, MISSOURI
RURAL DEVELOPMENT***

SIGNS NOW, providing indoor and outdoor permanent signs, began operations in 2000. The company supplies many products and services including commercial, screen and digital printing, graphic design services, laser engraved corporate awards, plaques, banners, and more.

SIGNS NOW provided large mock checks and other digitally integrated signs and promotional items used by Rural Development (RD) for program outreach initiatives and program delivery. The company suggested ideas to satisfy award requirements to stay within the RD budget.

Orders placed with *SIGNS NOW* were often completed before due dates. Employees of the company provided excellent customer service and were always eager to assist their customers. The company was committed to providing personal attention and delivering professional services.

Tim Schaumburg, President and Operating Partner
tim@signsnowcolumbia.com
(573) 815-9293

***STANDRIDGE BULLDOZING, INC.
BELLEVILLE, ARKANSAS
FOREST SERVICE***

STANDRIDGE BULLDOZING, established in 1972, performs excavations and construction on highways, roads, railroads, airports, municipalities, and utilities.

STANDRIDGE BULLDOZING worked on road maintenance projects for the Magazine & St. Francis Ranger Districts in Arkansas. In their work for the Forest Service (FS), the company also constructed a prefabricated concrete bridge, reconstructed roads, created timber sale turnback roads, and completed stream bed restorations.

STANDRIDGE BULLDOZING completed all of their projects ahead of schedule. They have treated their employees and the project managers with which they work with the greatest respect. The Agency would welcome working with this company on future jobs.

Lemuel "Dick" Standridge, Owner
standridgebull@yahoo.com
(479) 493-2399

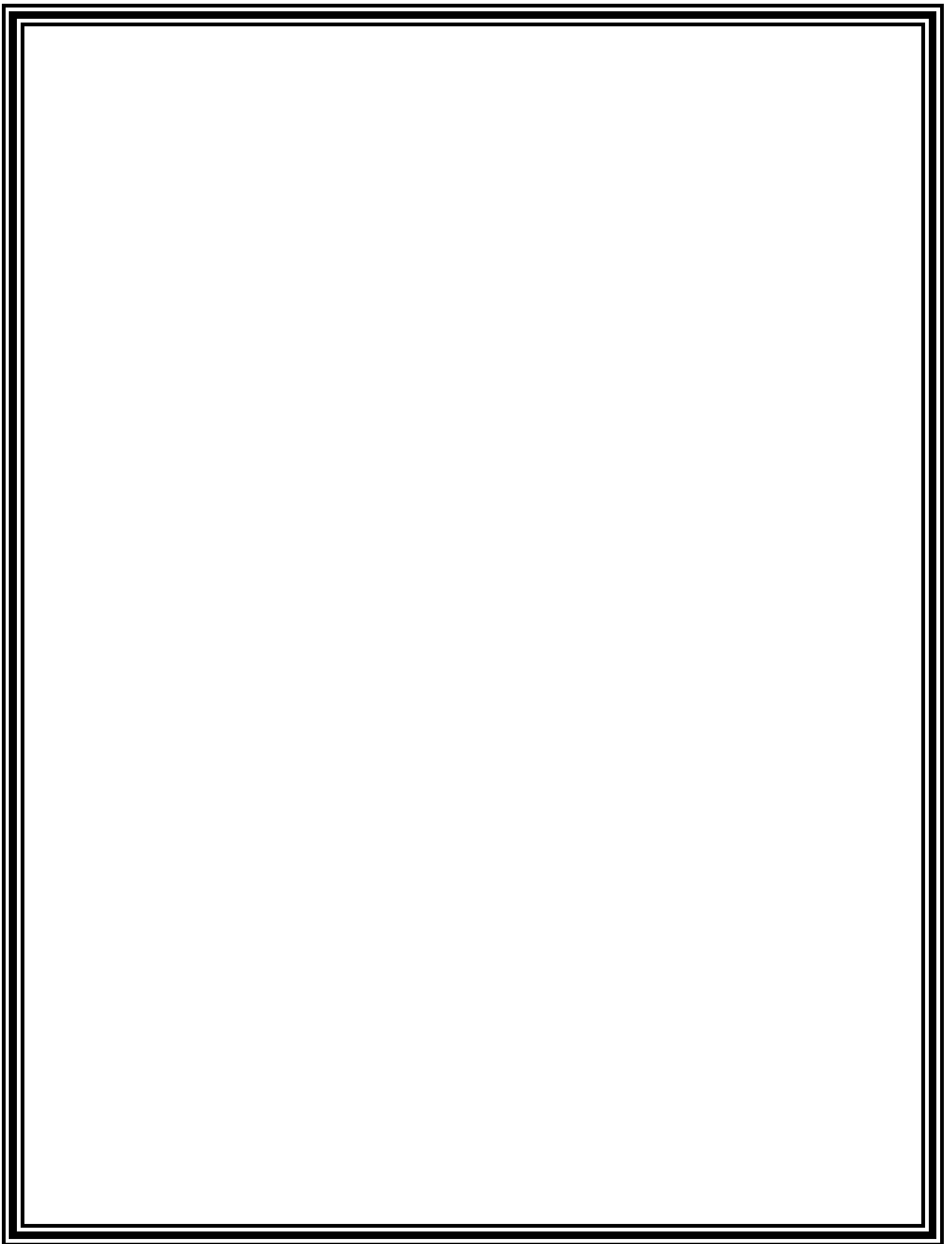
***ULTIMA SERVICES CORPORATION
JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA
NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE***

ULTIMA SERVICES, a woman-owned business established in 1999, specializes in administrative, postal, and security services.

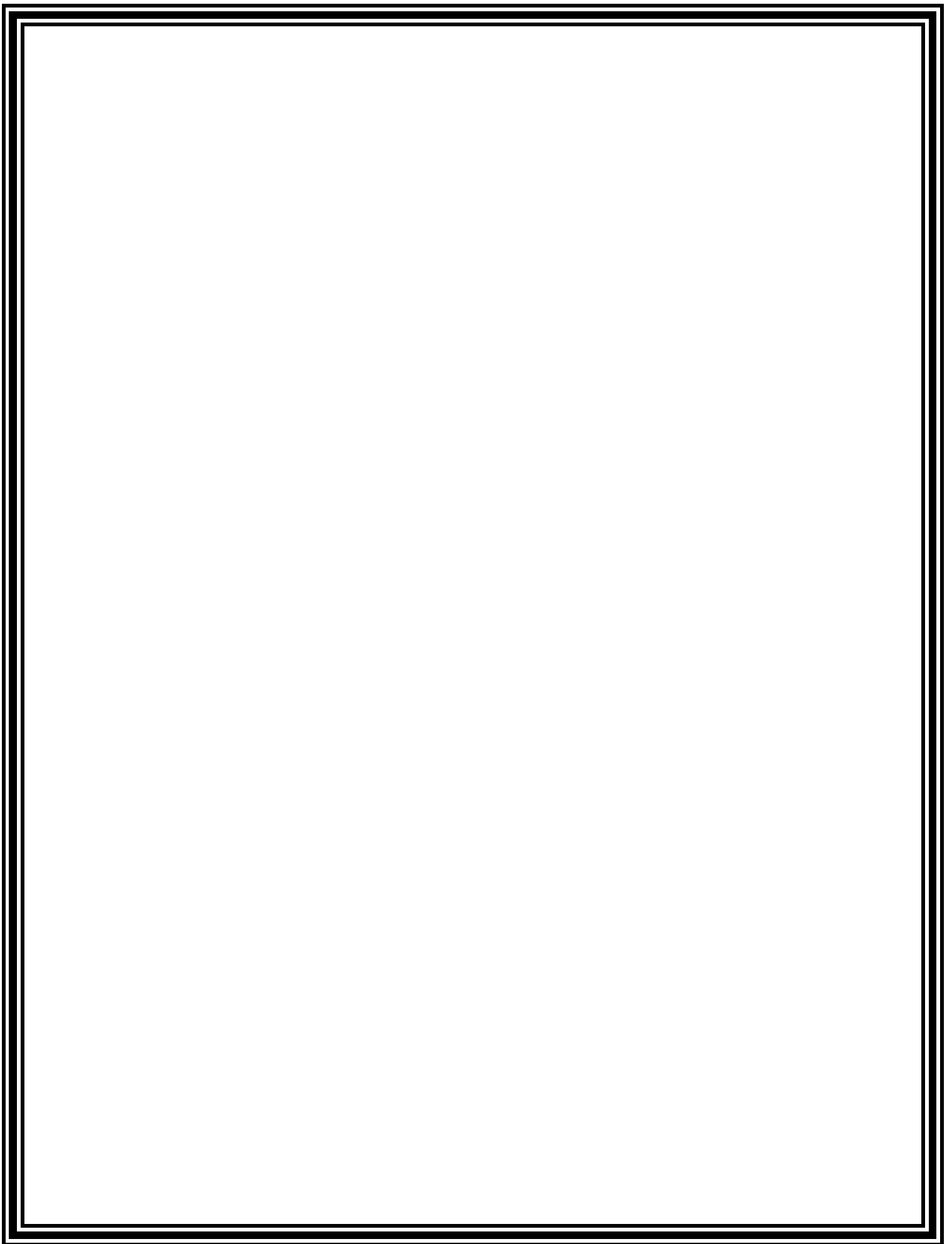
ULTIMA SERVICES provided clerical support services to approximately 83 Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) field offices. This included assembling cost data and processing payment application requests, reviewing invoices and vouchers, filing, compiling data, and working on proprietary software. The training program developed for its own staff has been so successful that some Agency personnel have also participated in the classes.

ULTIMA SERVICES met stringent turnaround requirements of the Agency willingly and quickly. The company was responsive to NRCS requests and has been a great company with which to work.

Celeste Bennett, President
cwbennett@ultimaservices.com
(240) 498-8574



***SMALL DISADVANTAGED
BUSINESS CONTRACTOR
AWARD WINNERS***



USDA
2008 SMALL DISADVANTAGED BUSINESS
CONTRACTOR OF THE YEAR

ANALYTICAL SOLUTIONS, INC.
FREDERICKSBURG, VIRGINIA
AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH SERVICE

ANALYTICAL SOLUTIONS (ASI), was established in 1980, and provides system engineering, software development, maintenance, testing and help desk solutions for its end users. They have experience in all aspects of the software development lifecycle.

ASI has supported the Beltsville Interoperability Lab, Rural Development, Farm Service Agency, and the Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service (CSREES) since 1994. *ASI* completed numerous tasks for CSREES and assisted with developing strategic plans for their many projects. The company staffs a software development and customer support team at CSREES.

One of *ASI's* primary focuses was the development and implementation of the Cooperative Research Education, and Extension Management System (C-REEMS) grant management application. C-REEMS is a cutting edge project that launched USDA ahead of the rest of the government with the capability to electronically process scientific grant applications. The company has also been responsible for the design and development of several additional supporting applications, which provide extended functionality and accessibility to the information in the C-REEMS environment.

ASI also provided analytical and developmental services in many other areas. They developed repeatable processes for documenting requirements and created an automated template allowing users to produce cohesive, predictable, and reliable requirements documents. They developed an electronic document library for in-house information sharing, supported the implementation of the first eAuthentication initiatives, supported the first USDA Office of the Chief Information Officer's mandated Certification and Accreditation of systems, and was instrumental in the standardization and documentation of much of the information systems and technology management business process.

ASI surpassed the Agency's requirements. They were flexible and willing to reallocate resources to get the job done. The company completed all projects on time and within or under budget. The *ASI* staff performed tremendously, delivering a great product in a timely manner.

Harlin Sutton, President
Harlin.Sutton@macb.com
(540) 834-2074

USDA
AGENCY SMALL DISADVANTAGED BUSINESS
AWARD WINNERS

BEST TECHNOLOGY SYSTEMS, INC.
PLAINFIELD, ILLINOIS
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

BEST TECHNOLOGY SYSTEMS (BTS), founded in 1993, is an 8(a) provider of environmental solutions for indoor and outdoor shooting ranges. The company's services include simple lead removal, cleaning, bullet trap maintenance and decommissioning.

BTS performed preventive maintenance, recycling of spent lead, and disposal of hazardous waste services for the Office of Inspector General's (OIG's) Beltsville National Firearms Range. Timely completion was critical.

BTS's employees arrived and completed their tasks timely while adhering to all regulations. The company's work was outstanding, and their specialists were very knowledgeable. The Beltsville National Firearms Range experienced a minimum downtime and there was minimum disruption to the OIG and the other Federal agencies whom utilize the facility.

Gary M. Chinn, President
mail@btsranges.com
(815) 254-9554

COSH HEALTHCARE, LTD.
TUCKER, GEORGIA
FOOD SAFETY AND INSPECTION SERVICE

COSH HEALTHCARE, founded in 1988, is a full-service distributor of medical, scientific, diagnostic, clinical, laboratory and research-related equipment, products, supplies and furniture.

COSH HEALTHCARE provided a broad array of products to assist the Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) meet its agency objectives. They supplied antimicrobial plates and spores, laboratory safety equipment, hearing protection, and cut resistant gloves.

COSH HEALTHCARE always delivered on time, in the right place and in the right amount. They provided quality products which made them a great vendor to contract with for multiple critical requirements. They could be trusted to deliver with precision and timeliness.

Ronald Shinault, Chief Operating Officer and Executive Vice President
Ron@cosh-healthcare.com
(770) 939-2007

DKW COMMUNICATIONS, INC.
WASHINGTON, D.C.
FARM SERVICE AGENCY

DKW COMMUNICATIONS, founded in 2000, provides information technology, systems engineering and business process services and solutions. They service a range of government customers in defense, intelligence, law enforcement, security and diplomacy.

DKW COMMUNICATIONS provided customer support services, passport control, travel case processing, document analysis services, web-site maintenance and visa courier services for the Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS). Their travel analysts worked with travel coordinators, individual travelers, and embassy personnel to provide comprehensive overseas travel support services.

DKW COMMUNICATIONS staff was extremely reliable. Their work was always of the highest quality and always completed on time. The company made a substantial investment in creating and developing Centers of Excellence which helped the project teams evaluate innovative ways to boost productivity and continuously improve production. The professionalism of this company has been outstanding.

Darryl K. Washington, President and CEO

Dk1@dkwcommunications.com

(202) 355-7400

DYKON COMPUTER HELP CENTER, INC.
NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA
OFFICE OF PROCUREMENT AND PROPERTY MANAGEMENT

DYKON COMPUTER HELP CENTER (DYKON) is an 8(a) company that was established in 1997 and provides computer networking support, information technology staff, document imaging, and document management solutions. They also sell a wide variety of equipment.

DYKON assisted the Department of Agriculture's National Finance Center (NFC) in obtaining much needed equipment after Hurricane Katrina to support staff deployed all over the country. The company also assisted with implementing the Windows Active directory, secured firewalls for networks, implemented the Agency's Remedy Business Solutions, and supported the Primary Computing Facility in Denver.

DYKON has exhibited the highest degree of integrity and professionalism. The company is known for its on-time deliveries and superior, quality and talented staff.

Eben N. Dike, President

EDike@Dykonpc.com

(504) 242-5640

***GARCIA FOREST SERVICE, LLC
ROCKINGHAM, NORTH CAROLINA
FOREST SERVICE***

GARCIA FOREST SERVICE is an 8(a) company established in 1994 that provides a variety of silviculture services. Those services include reforestation, animal damage control and timber stand improvement.

GARCIA FOREST SERVICE has worked with the Superior and Chippewa National Forests in Minnesota. This area has some of the largest reforestation and timber stand improvement requirements in the Region. The company has had to adjust work schedules to the weather conditions which often permit only minimal timeframes to complete the work. They have proven to be timely and efficient in completing their projects.

GARCIA FOREST SERVICE has had an excellent track record and provided highly qualified, competent and hard working crews. The company's ability to meet the needs of the Forest Service was exceptional.

Samuel Garcia, President
s_garcia@mac.com
(910) 997-5011

***OFFICE FURNITURE CONNECTION
CROFTON, MARYLAND
ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH INSPECTION SERVICE***

OFFICE FURNITURE CONNECTION, established in 2005, offers an array of office furniture lines and styles, including modular, case goods, systems, conference, training and more. They also provide space planning design services, installation and in-house moves and relocations.

OFFICE FURNITURE CONNECTION completed many projects for the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) with one assignment requiring renovations and relocating 1,300 employees. The company determined needs, provided floor plans and stored furniture providing many services at no additional cost to the Government. Change orders were met professionally and considerately.

OFFICE FURNITURE CONNECTION's service has been prompt and complete. The company has accommodated emergency schedules in very short timeframes. They have excellent customer service and a reputation for professionalism and dependability.

Paul Gabor, Sales Executive
Paulg-ofc@comcast.net
(301) 261-3036

PANUM GROUP, LLC
BETHESDA, MARYLAND
FOOD AND NUTRITION SERVICE

PANUM GROUP, established in 1997, is an 8(a) company that offers consultation services in business process improvements for information technology (IT) systems and processes.

PANUM GROUP worked on several projects for the Food and Nutrition Service (FNS). They assisted in the acquisition of an infrastructure support services contract, and worked on an assessment for an IT organization structure. The company also provided technical and acquisition support for the implementation of an Independent Verification and Validation Program, and they provided acquisition support for the FNS Contract Management Branch.

PANUM GROUP has been effective in meeting the Agency's tight schedules and working within limited budgets. They have demonstrated a high degree of professionalism and often delivered end results exceeding the Agency's objectives.

Dr. Vaikunth Gupta, member
vgupta@panum.com
(301) 299-6271

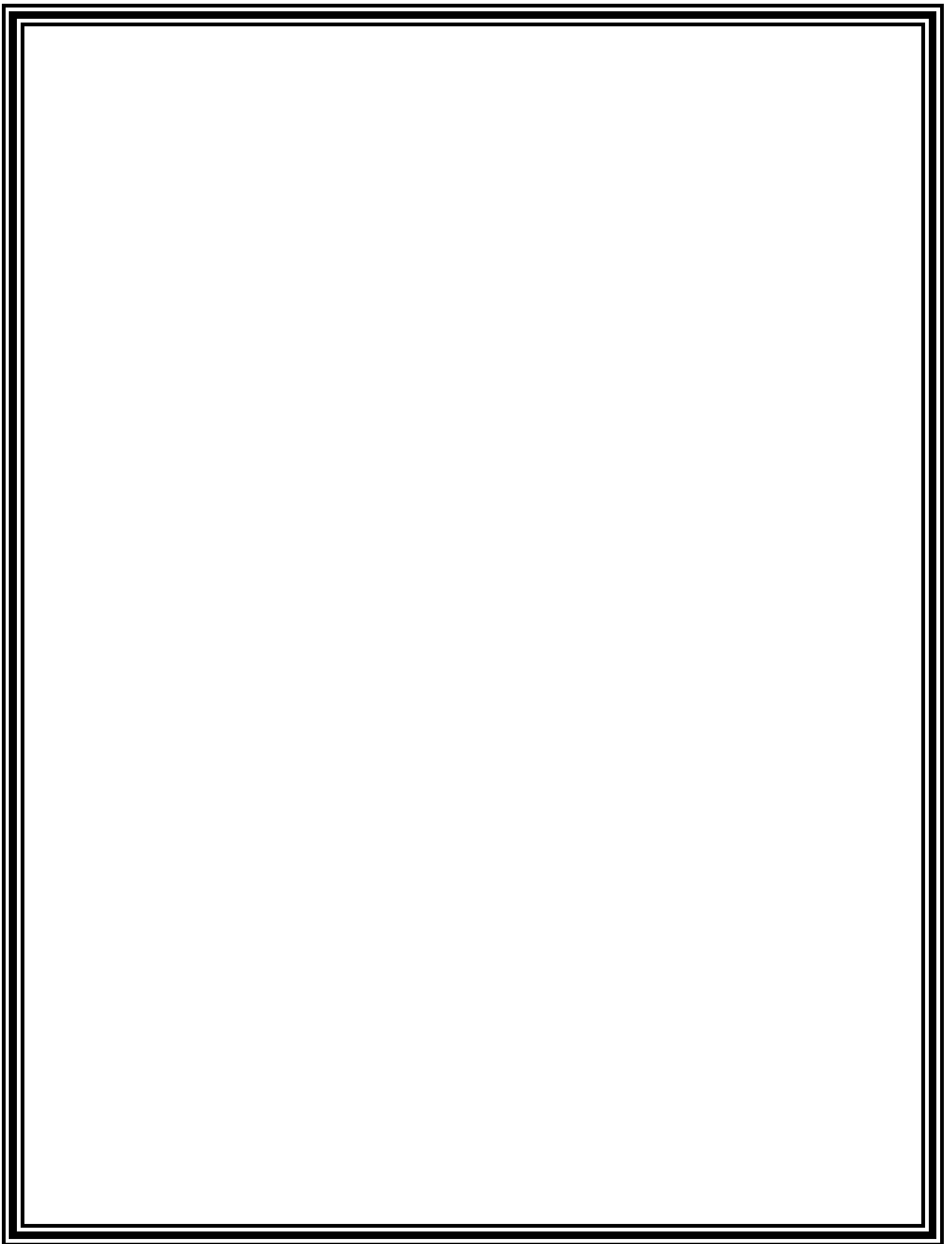
XPERT'S GULF, LLC
COVINGTON, LOUISIANA
NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE

XPERT'S GULF is a Historically Underutilized Business Zone (HUBZone), 8(a) company that specializes in construction and debris removal services. They were established in 2005.

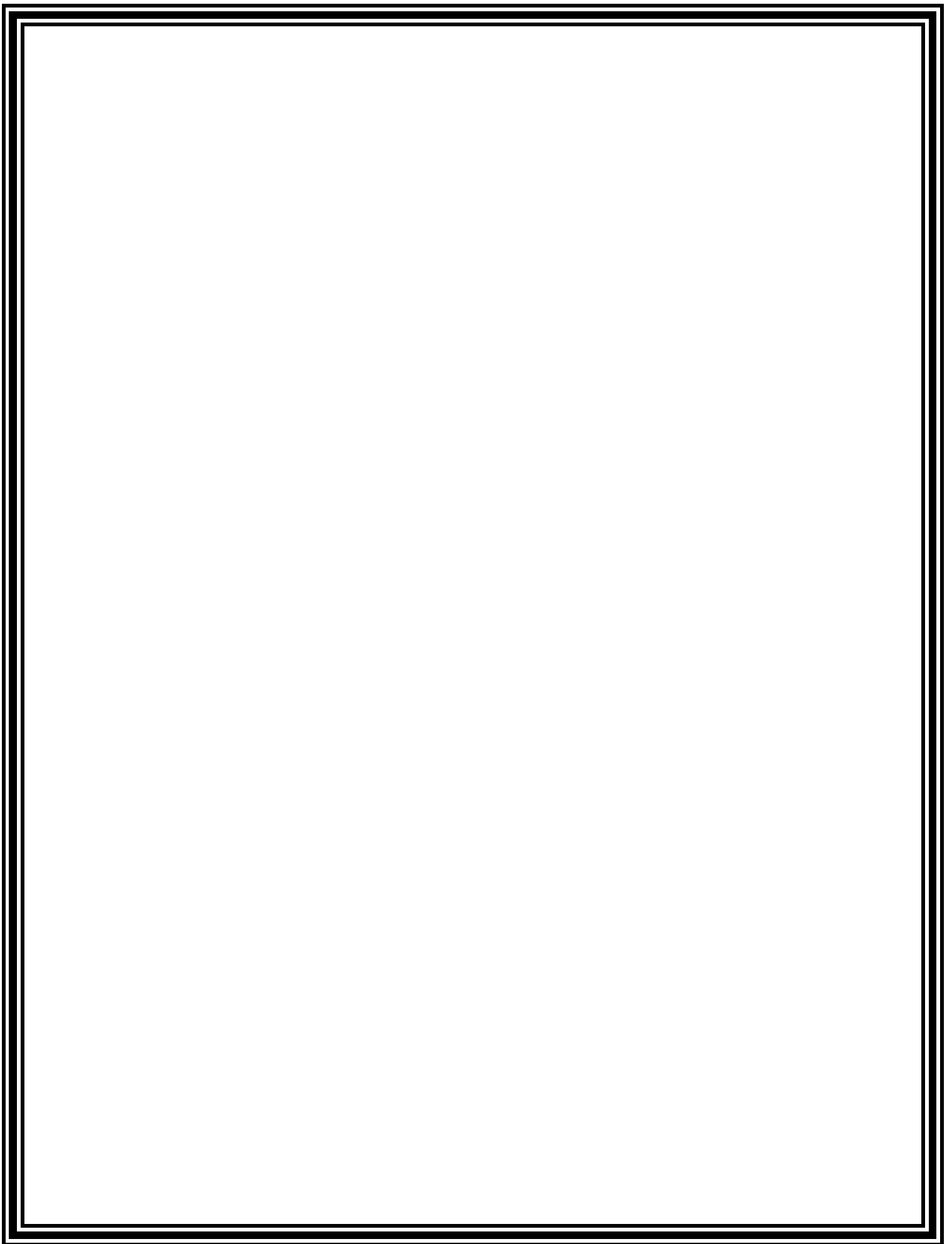
XPERT'S GULF assisted the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) with debris cleanup from a Kansas tornado. The company responded quickly to the Agency's request for assistance and had to make several adjustments once the work was initiated. The company completed the job timely while ensuring all sponsors of the project were satisfied. *XPERT'S GULF* worked on many projects for NRCS, including over 20 contracts for debris removal resulting from Hurricane Katrina.

XPERT'S GULF consistently completed their projects on-time. Company personnel have been conscientious and dependable. The company has always offered excellent customer service and has been extremely adaptable to meet each job's requirements.

Alberto J. Gonzalez, Owner, President
alberto@xpertsgulf.com
(985)871-5345



***SMALL WOMAN-OWNED
BUSINESS CONTRACTOR
AWARD WINNERS***



USDA
2008 WOMAN-OWNED BUSINESS
CONTRACTOR OF THE YEAR

ONE STOP ENVIRONMENTAL
BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA
NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE

ONE STOP ENVIRONMENTAL (ONE STOP) is a Historically Underutilized Business Zone (HUBZone) and 8(a) business founded in 1999. The company specializes in hazardous waste remediation and cleanup services for government, military, and private sector clients.

ONE STOP began working for the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) in 2006 completing over 20 task orders for debris removal services for cleanup after Hurricane Katrina. One of their most recent tasks was for debris removal due to flooding in Kansas. The job was classified as an “exigent situation” and *ONE STOP* was required to view the site, prepare their proposal, and complete all work within approximately 20 calendar days. The company took all necessary actions to ensure the project was completed on time.

All *ONE STOP* projects were completed within specifications, and they were considered the most technically competent contractor by NRCS inspectors. The company was prompt in responding to client concerns, and they were cooperative and innovative in resolving differences.

ONE STOP was very customer oriented. Their mission to provide their clients with quality, cost effective, and reliable services was evident in their performance. *ONE STOP* was always willing to do more than was necessary to ensure the Agency was satisfied with the services provided.

Shannon Riley, Owner
JamesK@onestopenv.com
(205) 595-8188

**USDA AGENCY
2008 WOMAN-OWNED BUSINESS
AWARD WINNERS**

COMMUNICATIONS RESOURCE, INC.
McLEAN, VIRGINIA
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

COMMUNICATIONS RESOURCE, INC., established in 1994, offers advanced technology solutions, data management, and security consulting services. They also supply computer hardware, software, and peripherals.

COMMUNICATIONS RESOURCE, INC., developed documentation to assure the Office of Inspector General's (OIG) IT systems were certified and accredited in accordance with USDA guidelines. The company worked with OIG personnel to identify and resolve issues not completed in a previous phase of the accreditation process.

COMMUNICATIONS RESOURCE, INC. delivered the most innovative, cost-effective solutions in a timely and dependable manner. Their professionalism and performance exceeded OIG's expectations.

Victoria Johnson, President
rgillette@cri-solutions.com
(703) 245-4140

EVERGREEN INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SERVICES, INC.
HYATTSVILLE, MARYLAND
OFFICE OF PROCUREMENT AND PROPERTY MANAGEMENT

EVERGREEN INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SERVICES is an 8(a) company, established in 1999 to provide information technology products and services. The company provides help desk services, hardware and software integration and support, telecommunications support, managed networking services, and more.

EVERGREEN INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SERVICES provided network operations support for the Office of the Chief Information Officer. They also worked on special projects such as a network migration, wireless testing and implementation and a Voice Over Internet Protocol (VOIP) pilot implementation.

EVERGREEN INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SERVICES developed a strong "partner-solution" relationship with its customers and provided customer-focused solutions demonstrating the highest degree of professionalism.

Terrance Martin, President
tmartin@evergreenits.com
(301) 674-8125

***FAMILY FEATURES EDITORIAL
MISSION, KANSAS
FOOD SAFETY AND INSPECTION SERVICE***

FAMILY FEATURES EDITORIAL, established in 1974, provides newspaper, magazine, and web-site editing and publishing. They create full-page features that showcase food or lifestyle products and services from companies and associations. The features are used by print and on-line editors in front-page placement on lifestyle or food sections.

FAMILY FEATURES EDITORIAL collaborated with the Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) to develop and place a feature-length news article in daily and weekly newspapers, magazines and on-line news sites. The article discussed USDA food safety messages and included advice about avoiding food-borne illnesses focusing on safely cooking and preparing the Thanksgiving meal.

FAMILY FEATURES EDITORIAL maintained excellent communications with the FSIS staff and worked hard to please and exceed Agency expectations. They provided superior service to FSIS and the community.

Terry Bustamante, Manager of Sales
tbustamante@familyfeatures.com
(913) 722-0055

***GC MICRO CORPORATION
PETALUMA, CALIFORNIA
FOOD AND NUTRITION SERVICE***

GC MICRO CORPORATION was started in 1986 to provide IT hardware, software, and peripherals for government and corporate contractors.

GC MICRO CORPORATION provided the Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) with computer peripheral items such as LAN cables, mice, jump drives, small desktop printers, laptops, and more. The company's response time to the Agency's requests for quotes was usually within a few hours. Other vendors sometimes took days to respond.

GC MICRO CORPORATION always provided exceptional customer service and quality products. Their prices were very competitive and sometimes better than other vendors and their sales representatives were professional and pleasant to work with.

Belinda Guadarrama, President and CEO
info@gcmicro.com
(707) 789-0600

***IOWA VALLEY APPRAISAL
WAVERLY, IOWA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT***

IOWA VALLEY APPRAISAL was established in 2002 and performs real estate appraisal services on residential and commercial properties, and agricultural land.

IOWA VALLEY APPRAISAL was hired by Rural Development (RD) to conduct single family and multi-family housing appraisals. The appraisals often had to be completed within very short turn-around times, and deadlines were always met. The company always provided a great appraisal product exceeding RD's quality standards.

IOWA VALLEY APPRAISAL provided products that were received timely, or ahead of schedule, with content that was thorough and complete. Appraisal reports were always professionally presented.

Karyl L. Smith, Owner
Iowaappraisals@aol.com
(319) 352-2116

***MACK MECHANICAL, INC.
COOKEVILLE, TENNESSEE
AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH SERVICE***

MACK MECHANICAL is a HUBZone certified company started in 2003 as a prime contractor specializing in mechanical projects. They are also a prime contractor for construction contracts mainly for the Federal Government.

MACK MECHANICAL completed several projects for the Agricultural Research Service (ARS) since 2004. They performed on projects such as fire sprinkler systems, security fence and gate installations, roof modifications, concrete, plumbing, and electrical repairs and installations.

MACK MECHANICAL provided talented staff and promoted an atmosphere of teamwork, individual responsibility, and financial reward. They provided outstanding customer service and always verified that the Agency was satisfied with their work.

Elizabeth Mack, President
wbays@mackmechanical.com
(931) 525-6225

***RADMAN AERIAL SURVEYS, INC.
SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA
FOOD SAFETY AND INSPECTION SERVICE***

RADMAN AERIAL SURVEYS, founded in 1991, provides aerial services that include photogrammetric mapping services. Aerial photography, scanning, data collections, GIS and base map creation, digital terrain and elevation modeling are additional services provided.

RADMAN AERIAL SURVEYS provided aerial photography and photographic products to the Farm Service Agency (FSA) using state-of-the-art computer systems, aircraft and cameras. The company carefully flight planned their missions, taking into account steep terrains of the areas and variable weather conditions.

RADMAN AERIAL SURVEYS completed each project within budget and time schedules. They completed each project regardless of fires, snow cover, restricted air space and other difficulties. The company maintained an open line of communications and delivered quality products.

Carol Radman, President
radaerial@aol.com
(916) 391-1651

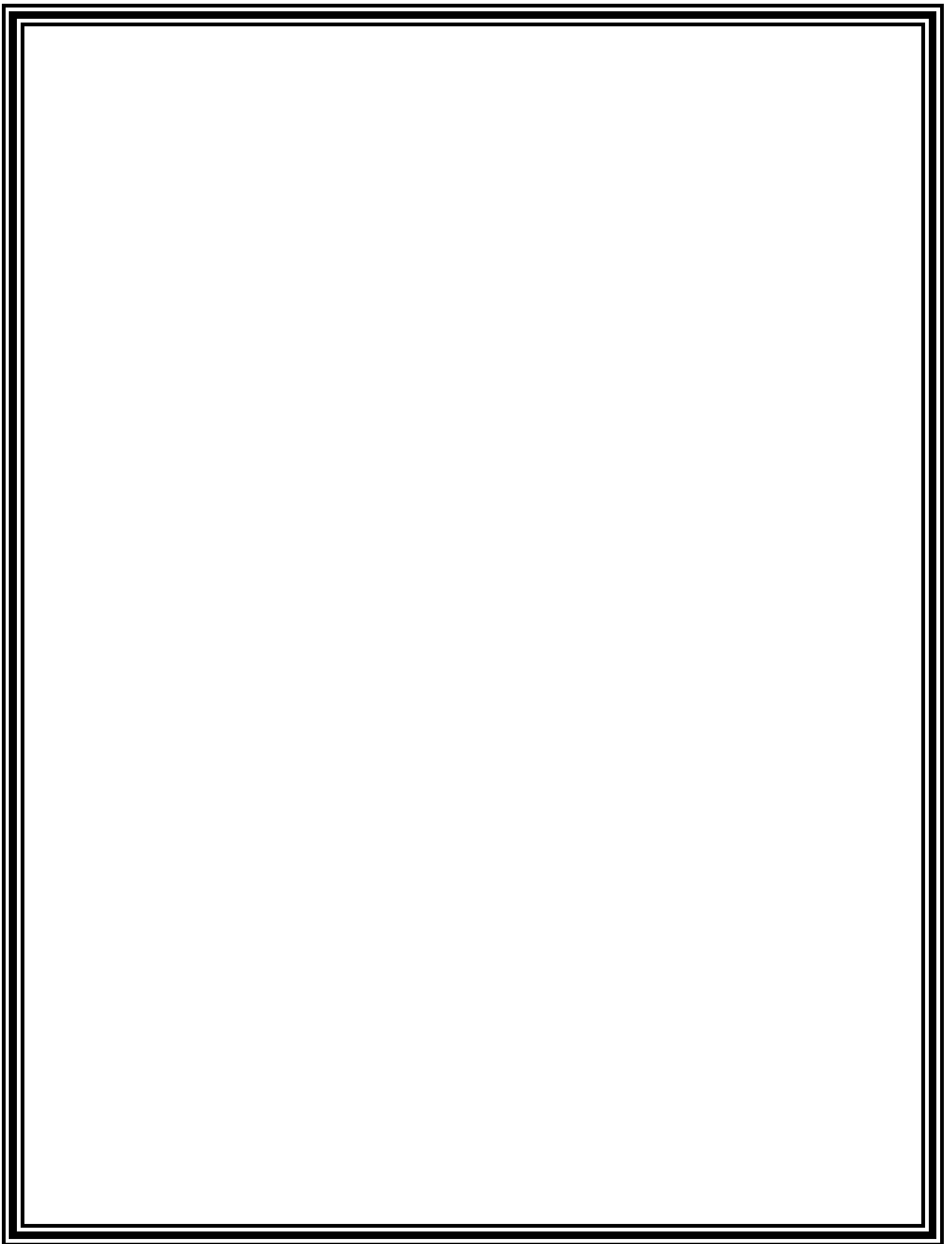
***R. S. VINCENT CONSTRUCTION
FRANKLIN, PENNSYLVANIA
FOREST SERVICE***

R. S. VINCENT CONSTRUCTION was established in 1994 and performs road and trail construction, excavations, and masonry and other concrete work.

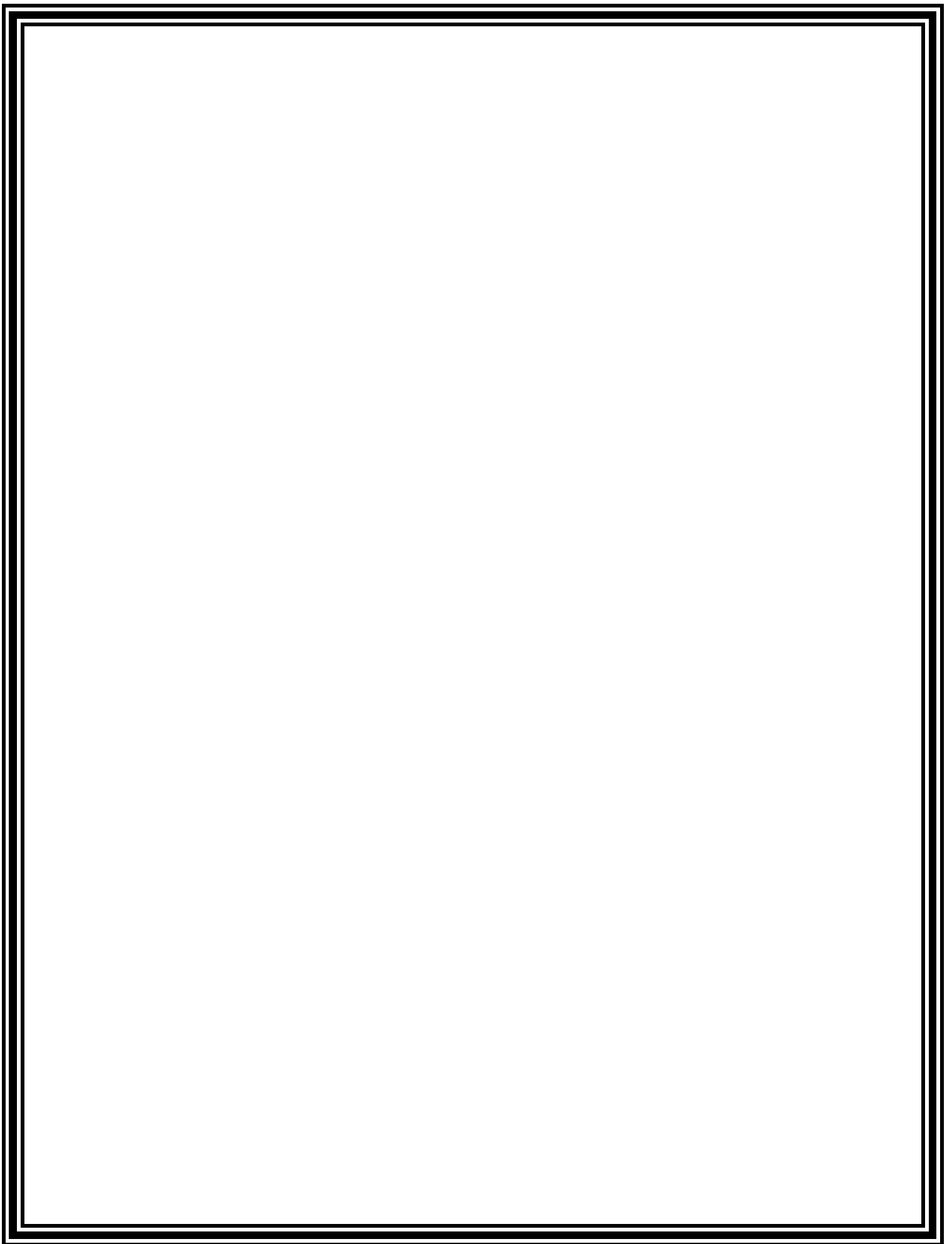
R. S. VINCENT CONSTRUCTION provided trail construction services for the development of trails for the Forest Service (FS) in Pennsylvania. The company reconstructed projects in extremely difficult work-spaces and hauled hundreds of tons of limestone in areas that required specialized equipment and great knowledge and expertise.

R. S. VINCENT CONSTRUCTION completed their projects ahead of schedule, often working from dawn to dusk. Their projects were always bid at reasonable costs and finished with the highest quality of service.

Robin Vincent, Owner
rsvincent@verizon.net
(814) 437-2717



***USDA
HUBZONE
AWARD WINNERS***



**USDA
2008 HUBZONE
CONTRACTOR OF THE YEAR**

***COMPU-CURE OF NEW ORLEANS, INC.
NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA
OFFICE OF PROCUREMENT AND PROPERTY MANAGEMENT***

COMPU-CURE OF NEW ORLEANS (COMPU-CURE), established in 1988, provides information technology services and consulting support. This includes integration of enterprise applications, custom software, legacy systems, IT contracting and outsourcing, security, network infrastructure design, implementation and maintenance, training, hardware, and more.

COMPU-CURE provided help desk services, hardware repair and maintenance, and maintenance and support for wiring and cabling, for the network operating system, and for general-purpose desktop software. The company also provided data entry services, which included a high volume of payment requests for vendors. *COMPU-CURE* also assisted with the implementation of MS conversion plans, documented implementation, and worked on certification and accreditation documentation and testing.

COMPU-CURE assisted with cable clean up at USDA's National Finance Center. In a complex production environment, 28,000 pounds of excess power and data cables were removed with very minor disruption. All documentation provided by *COMPU-CURE* exceeded requirements and expectations, and was well within budget.

COMPU-CURE was extremely responsive to Government needs and requirements ensuring efficient customer service for the lowest cost. The company's workstation support was technically competent and responsive to customer needs. *COMPU-CURE's* technical abilities and professionalism was exceptional.

Angelina M. Parker, Chief Executive Officer
aparker@compucureno.com
(504) 486-7741

**USDA
AGENCY HUBZONE
AWARD WINNERS**

***HAMMER LGC, INC.
CASEYVILLE, ILLINOIS
AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH SERVICE***

HAMMER LGC (HAMMER), formed in 1998, is a general construction contractor performing design-build, new facility and civil construction, renovations, and environmental services.

HAMMER completed seven projects for the Agricultural Research Service (ARS) that included replacing fermenter and chilled water lines, upgrading parking lot lighting, replacing an automatic transfer switch, and installing drain tile in garden plots.

HAMMER employees were committed to quality and providing excellent customer service. All projects were completed in a timely manner.

Bob Hemmer, General Manager, Midwest Division
rbhemmer@hammer-lgc.com
(618) 293-0044

***SOLUTIONS THROUGH INNOVATIVE TECHNOLOGIES, INC.
TULSA, OKLAHOMA
FOOD SAFETY AND INSPECTION SERVICE***

SOLUTIONS THROUGH INNOVATIVE TECHNOLOGIES, INC. (STI) is an 8(a) company founded in 2000 to supply professional business and information management services. They have experts in quality assurance, applications development, IT technology and service management, environmental management, cyber security, and administrative and advisory assistance services.

STI provided the Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) software development applications creating data-driven predictive and public health risk models. Their custom software applications offered automated deployment tools that simplified the process and resulted in accurate, consistent cycle times, visibility into project status, and streamlined development.

STI surpassed FSIS' expectations by offering solution utilizing cost effective industry standard technologies. They delivered exceptional quality and outstanding service.

Charles A. Colon III, Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer
Charles.colon@sti-tec.com
(918) 583-9000

ZACO, INC.
BLACK EAGLE, MONTANA
FOREST SERVICE

ZACO, INC., formed in 1993, has experience in construction of bridges, commercial buildings, roads, trails, underground utilities, and mine reclamations.

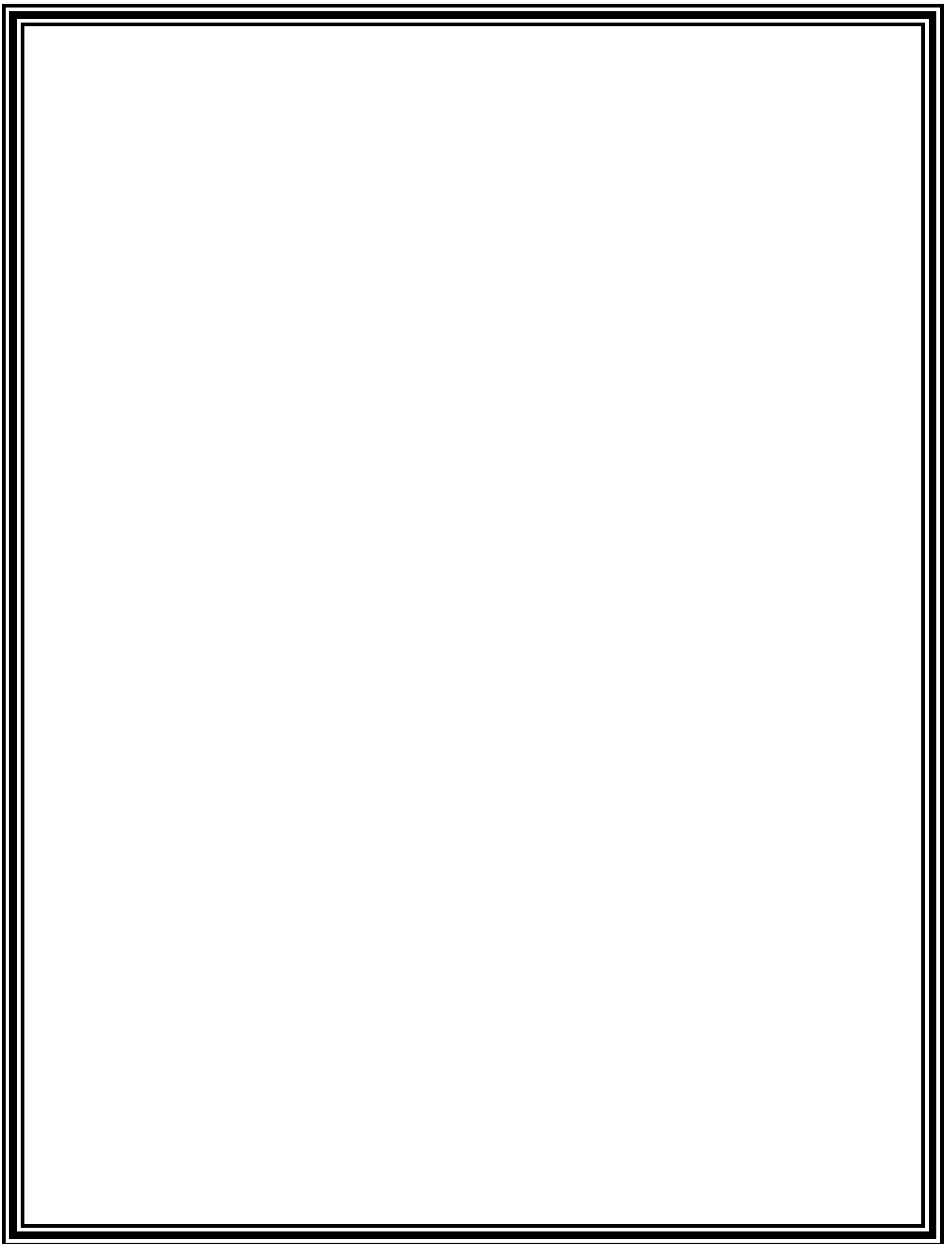
ZACO, INC. completed over a dozen projects for the Forest Service (FS) including pump house re-plumbing, pump house relocations, road maintenance and culvert removal.

ZACO, INC. completed its projects in an exceptional manner and timely. The company prided itself in building lasting relationships and providing customers with the best solutions to meet their needs.

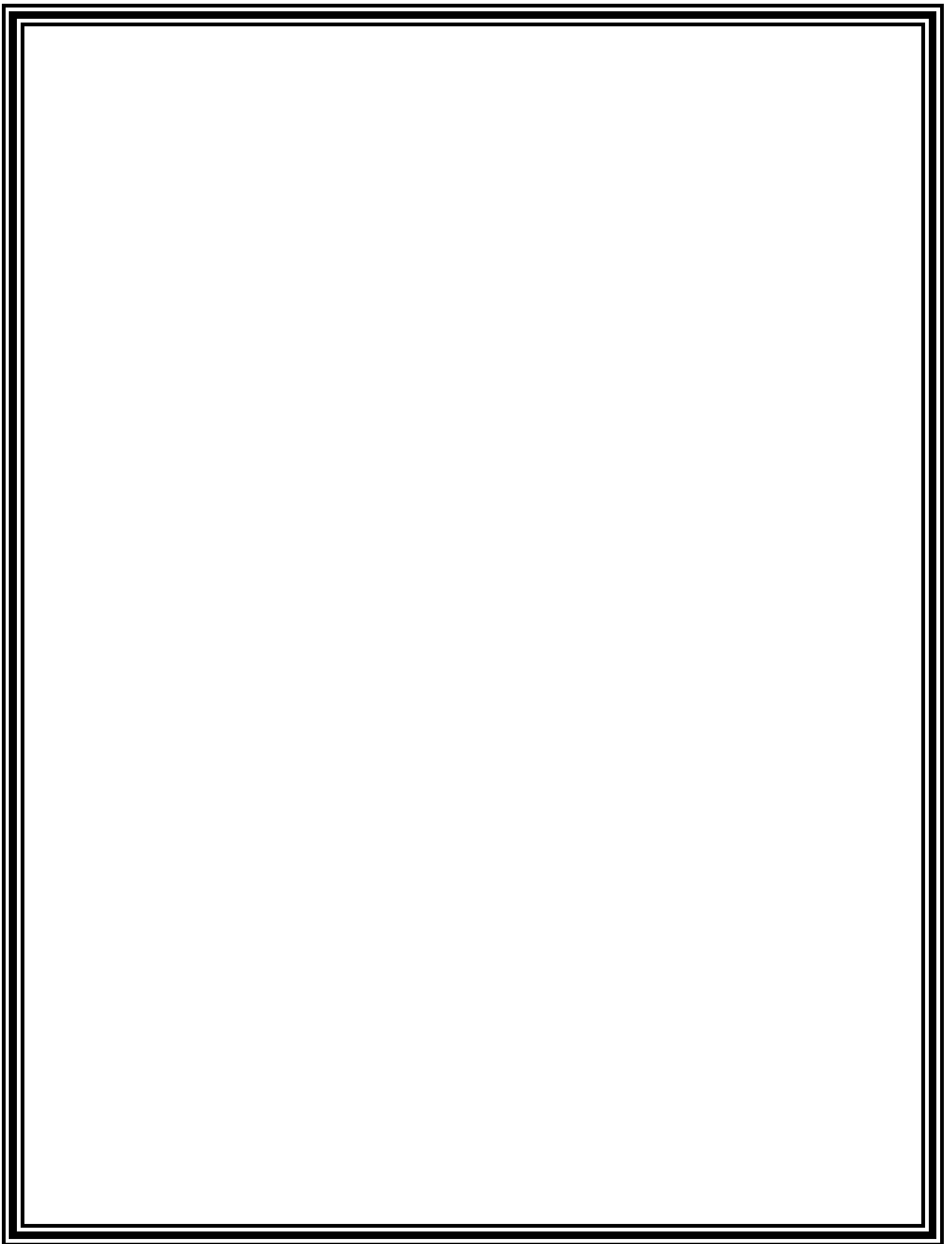
Robert Swartz, President and General Manager

zaco@mcn.net

(406) 453-0455



***USDA
SERVICE DISABLED
VETERAN-OWNED
SMALL BUSINESS
AWARD WINNERS***



USDA
2008 SERVICE DISABLED VETERAN-OWNED SMALL BUSINESS
CONTRACTOR OF THE YEAR

SKYLINE ULTD, INC.
ROUND ROCK, TEXAS
OFFICE OF PROCUREMENT AND PROPERTY MANAGEMENT

SKYLINE ULTD, INC. (SKYLINE) was founded in 2001 as a professional services company specializing in information technology (IT) support, program management, and logistics. The company offers mainframe operations; business analysis; network and system administration; programming and operations; information assurance; web development; deployment, acquisition, supply and value chain management and more.

SKYLINE provided tape support and operations for critical payroll and financial applications for the Department of Agriculture's (USDA) National Finance Center (NFC). The NFC had located to an interim facility in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania after suffering great building damage in New Orleans due to Hurricane Katrina. *SKYLINE* provided technical support for tape and silo management 24 hours a day-7 days a week. Their quick response-time afforded many of the NFC staff the opportunity to return to New Orleans sooner to begin rebuilding their homes and lives.

SKYLINE also provided operational support to ship and receive tapes from the offsite storage company. The USDA is dependent on the consistent and accurate performance of this critical function for any future disaster recovery capability.

The company was a crucial partner for the migration to NFC's permanent Denver Primary Computing Center. They assisted recording, packing, tracking and transition of over 80,000 critical production tape volumes from Philadelphia. All media was transported with zero defects or errors.

SKYLINE's record was excellent. Their workforce was knowledgeable, well-trained and played a key role with the Agency as they recovered from the ravages of Hurricane Katrina.

Joel R. Rhoades, President and CEO
Joe.Rhoades@Skyline-Ultd.com
(703) 373-8202

**USDA AGENCY
SERVICE DISABLED VETERAN-OWNED SMALL BUSINESS
AWARD WINNERS**

***FOUR POINTS TECHNOLOGY, LLC
HERNDON, VIRGINIA
FOOD SAFETY AND INSPECTION SERVICE***

FOUR POINTS TECHNOLOGY, founded in 2002, offers a wide variety of IT products from printers and monitors to large network storage and enterprise software solutions. The company also provides services, such as engineering support, help desk assistance, and custom software development.

FOUR POINTS TECHNOLOGY provided desktop and notebook computers to the Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS). Many computers were provided with extremely stringent delivery timelines and requirements.

FOUR POINTS' performance was outstanding with all deliverables submitted on or ahead of schedule. The company met tight deadlines with precision and professionalism.

David Gilchrist, President
davidg@4points.com
(703) 234-5341

***R&B WEB SOLUTIONS
SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH
FARM SERVICE AGENCY***

R&B WEB SOLUTIONS was established in 2001, specializing in the sale and maintenance of servers, networks, computers, managed services, cabling, equipment and web services.

R&B WEB SOLUTIONS provides general technology consulting, equipment sales, service and web-site solutions for desk top and lap top computers. The company supplied hard drive and enclosure sales and consulting services to the Farm Service Agency. The equipment purchased was often used for the Agency's digital imagery program.

R&B WEB SOLUTIONS employees always ensured all their products and services were of the highest quality and delivered in a timely manner. The company provided exceptional customer service and became a trusted technology advisor and business partner for the Agency.

Bryan Herbstritt, Owner and Chief IT Consultant
bryan@rbws4me.com
(801) 263-8858

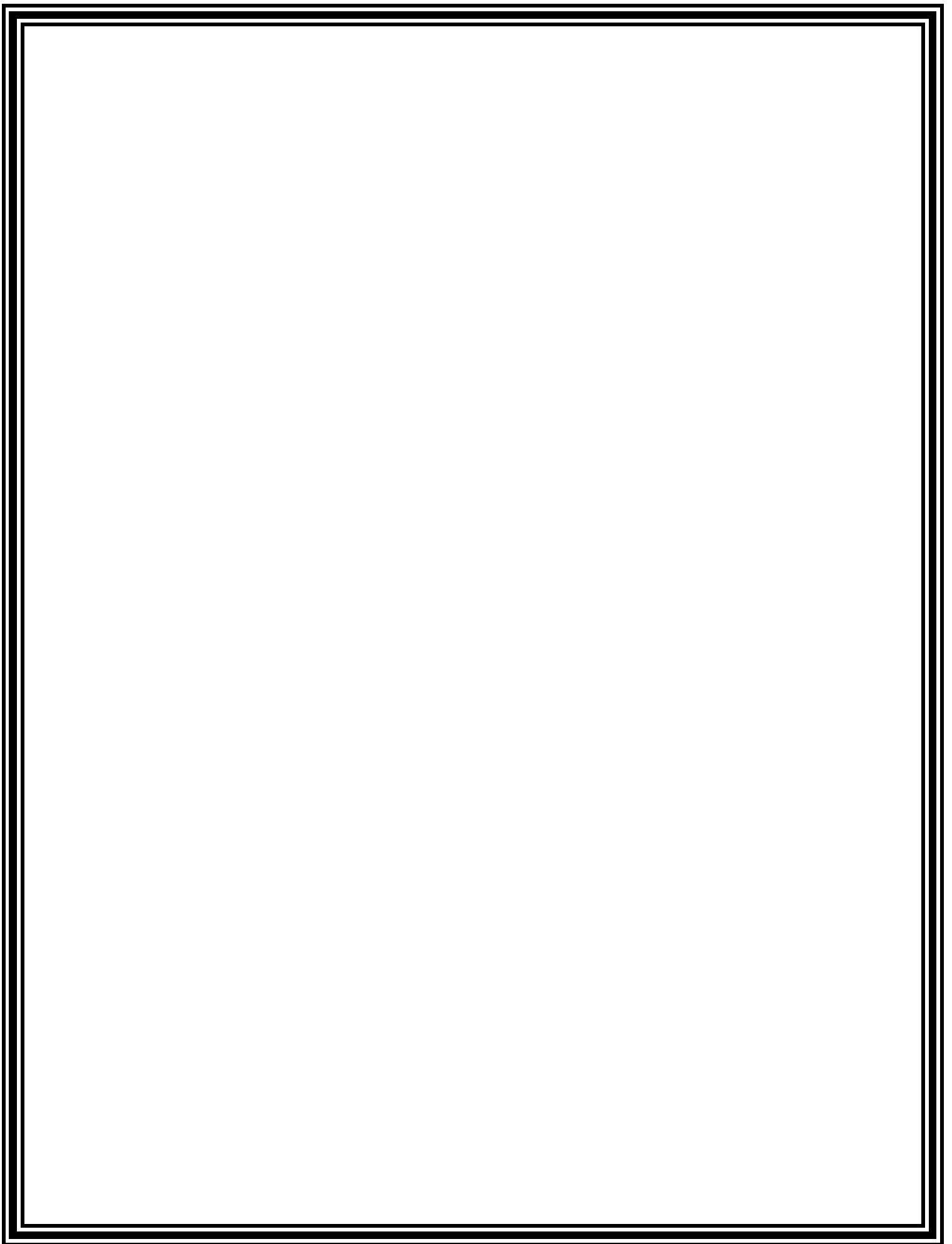
***TURNER ENTERPRISES
PITTSFIELD, PENNSYLVANIA
FOREST SERVICE***

TURNER ENTERPRISES, established in 1970, provides earth moving, construction site preparation, road construction, wildlife opening construction and maintenance, herbicide spraying and fertilization and more.

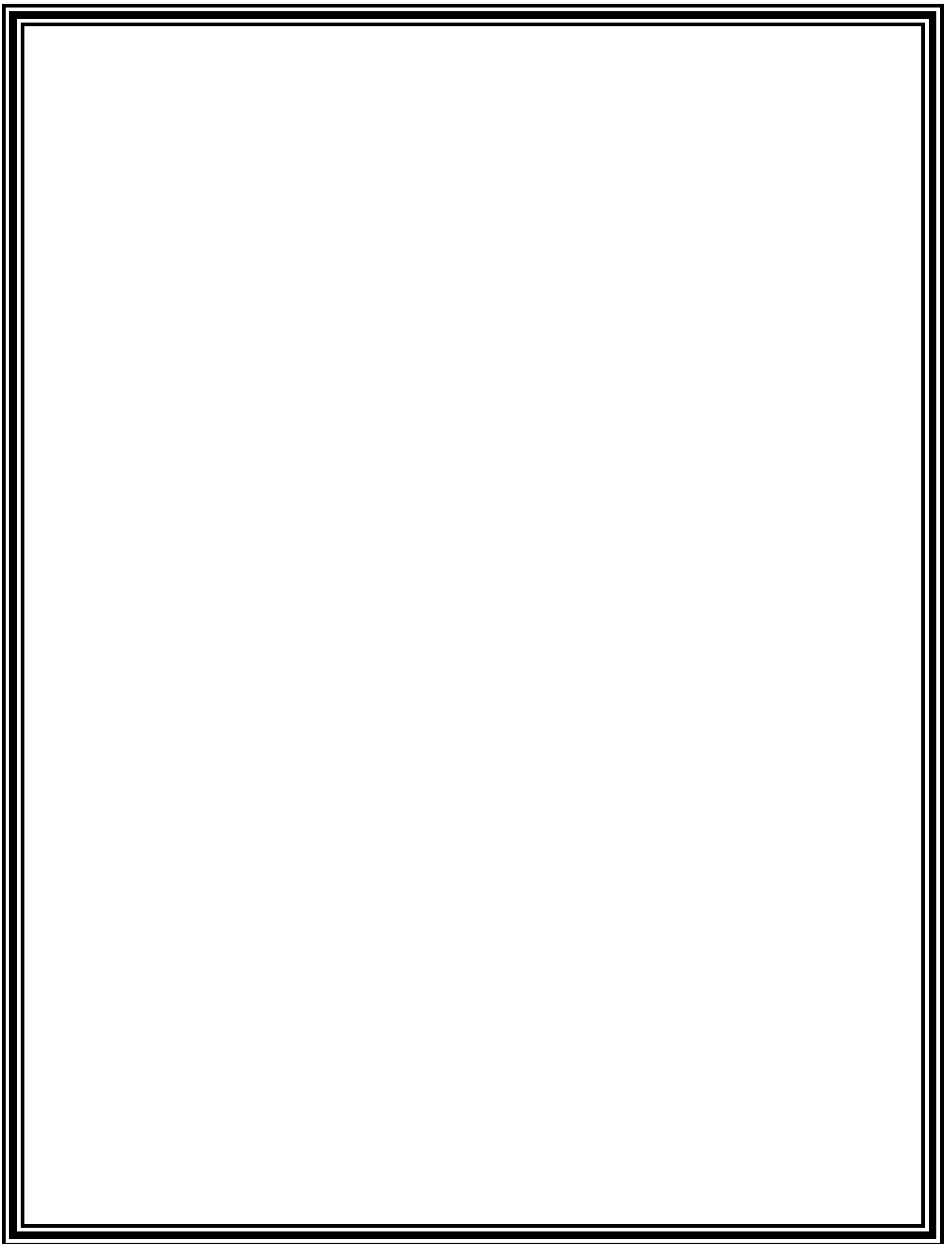
TURNER ENTERPRISES completed thousands of acres of herbicide spraying, fertilizations and wildlife openings, often in difficult, steep terrain, for the Allegheny National Forest in Pennsylvania. The company also worked on many timber sale road reconstruction projects for the Forest Service (FS).

TURNER ENTERPRISES helped the FS solve difficult problems and provided ideas on different approaches to achieve superior results. The company's work was always completed at the highest standard and within allotted timeframes.

David Turner, Owner
turnerenterprises@verizon.net
(814) 563-9088



***USDA
SPECIAL ACHIEVEMENT
AWARD WINNERS***



USDA
2008 SMALL BUSINESS PROGRAM
SPECIAL ACHIEVEMENT
AWARD WINNERS
(Individual and Group)

ACQUISITION TEAM
ATHENS, GEORGIA
SOUTH ATLANTIC AREA
AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH SERVICE

The *SOUTH ATLANTIC AREA (SAA) ACQUISITION TEAM* is responsible for the award and administration of more than eight million dollars a year in supply, services, architect-engineering (A-E), and construction contracts. In addition, the team provides technical guidance and contract support to 17 research locations as well as oversight for 350 Government Purchase Card holders.

The *SAA ACQUISITION TEAM*'s extra efforts and focus allowed the group to attain the Agricultural Research Service's (ARS) all-time high small business achievement in Fiscal Year 2007. The *TEAM* awarded 74.5% of its annual procurement actions to the small business community –an Agricultural Research Service best-ever achievement.

The *SAA ACQUISITION TEAM* greatly exceeded each of its small business procurement goals and was a repeat winner for the Fiscal Year 2007 ARS Eagle Award for outstanding Service Disabled Veteran-Owned Small Business (SDVOSB) accomplishments.

The *SAA ACQUISITION TEAM* conducted continuous market research, networked with other Federal Agencies, and was innovative in reaching out to the small business community. Efforts were initiated to identify 8(a) sources with proven past performance. Advanced Central Contractor Registry (CCR) searches were conducted and local military installation contracting offices and the local Department of Veteran's Affairs contracting officials were contacted for recommendations. The *SAA ACQUISITION TEAM* also solicited feedback from its current A-E firm to develop new leads.

The *SAA ACQUISITION TEAM* awarded a \$2.5 million SDVOSB set-aside for a modernization construction project. After a positive experience with another SDVOSB A-E firm, they encouraged the company to compete for a headquarter's-issued contract for A-E services. The SDVOSB's joint venture teaming efforts resulted in a winning \$10 million contract award.

The *SAA ACQUISITION TEAM* proved that initiative, effort, and interest made a difference in achieving a tremendously successful small business program.

Gerald Brunson
Alan Moore

Pat Jones
Elaine Wood

***KAY MATTHEWS
ATLANTA, GEORGIA
SOUTHERN REGION
FOREST SERVICE***

KAY MATTHEWS is a Procurement Analyst for the Forest Service's (FS) Southern Region in Atlanta, Georgia. She provides directions and assistance to contracting officers, purchasing agents and procurement assistants in field offices. In addition she monitors the small business goals and accomplishments for the Region, interprets and writes policies, and participates in outreach events.

KAY MATTHEWS has been a strong advocate and promoter of the small business programs in the Region. She has forged partnerships with representatives of the Small Business Administration, the Procurement Technical Assistance Centers (PTACs), the Minority Business Development Agency, along with additional Federal counterparts. In addition, she maintains contact with the Native American Indian Procurement Center and the Hispanic Association of Contractors in Georgia.

KAY MATTHEWS has actively participated in many small business workshops, conferences and summits. She represented the Forest Service and the Department on panels to discuss contracting opportunities. Her goal was always to seek small businesses willing to work with the Department

MS. MATTHEWS published a handbook on "Doing Business with the Forest Service, Southern Region" which was distributed within the 13 State Regions. She wrote instructions on registering in "FedBizOpps" for vendors, and she is developing a webpage on "How to do Business with the Forest Service Southern Region".

KAY MATTHEWS was instrumental in assisting the Washington Office and her Region to exceed the 3% Service Disabled Veteran-Owned Small Business goal. She has taken great initiative to reach out to all categories of small business, and has continuously strived to increase the FS Region's small business procurement accomplishments.

USDA
AGENCY SMALL BUSINESS PROGRAMS
SPECIAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARD WINNERS
(Individual and Group)

GUSTAVO CARVAJAL
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS
MIDWEST REGION
FOOD AND NUTRITION SERVICE

GUSTAVO CARVAJAL is the Contracting and Procurement Officer for the Food and Nutrition Service's (FNS) Midwest Region. He worked on several initiatives to increase the Region's activities with small, small disadvantaged and women-owned businesses.

MR. CARVAJAL worked with several small business interpreter services to standardize services and to reduce lead-time required for scheduling. He worked diligently to obtain an 8(a) vendor for copier services, and he was successful in encouraging one of his large prime contractors to increase its subcontracting with small, small disadvantaged and SDVOSBs.

GUSTAVO CARVAJAL's efforts have resulted in reduced costs, less billing problems, easier reconciliations and faster meeting schedules for the Agency.

TAMMY NUTWELL
BELTSVILLE, MARYLAND
FOOD SAFETY AND INSPECTION SERVICE

TAMMY NUTWELL is a Lead Support Services Specialist responsible for personal property utilization and disposal, space management, supply and motor vehicle fleet management, and more.

MS. NUTWELL partnered with numerous members of the Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) Procurement Management Branch to identify and award 80% of funding actions to the various categories of small business. Her outreach efforts were evident when the Agency purchased over \$1.5 million worth of specialty inspection and safety-related items from small businesses. *MS. NUTWELL* also contributed to FSIS' tremendous success in greatly surpassing the Department's Service Disabled Veteran-Owned Small Business goal with a 21% achievement in that category.

TAMMY NUTWELL initiated many positive actions to improve the delivery and quality of products and services purchased by the Agency. She has always been professional, competent and responsive when assisting FSIS meet its small business goals.

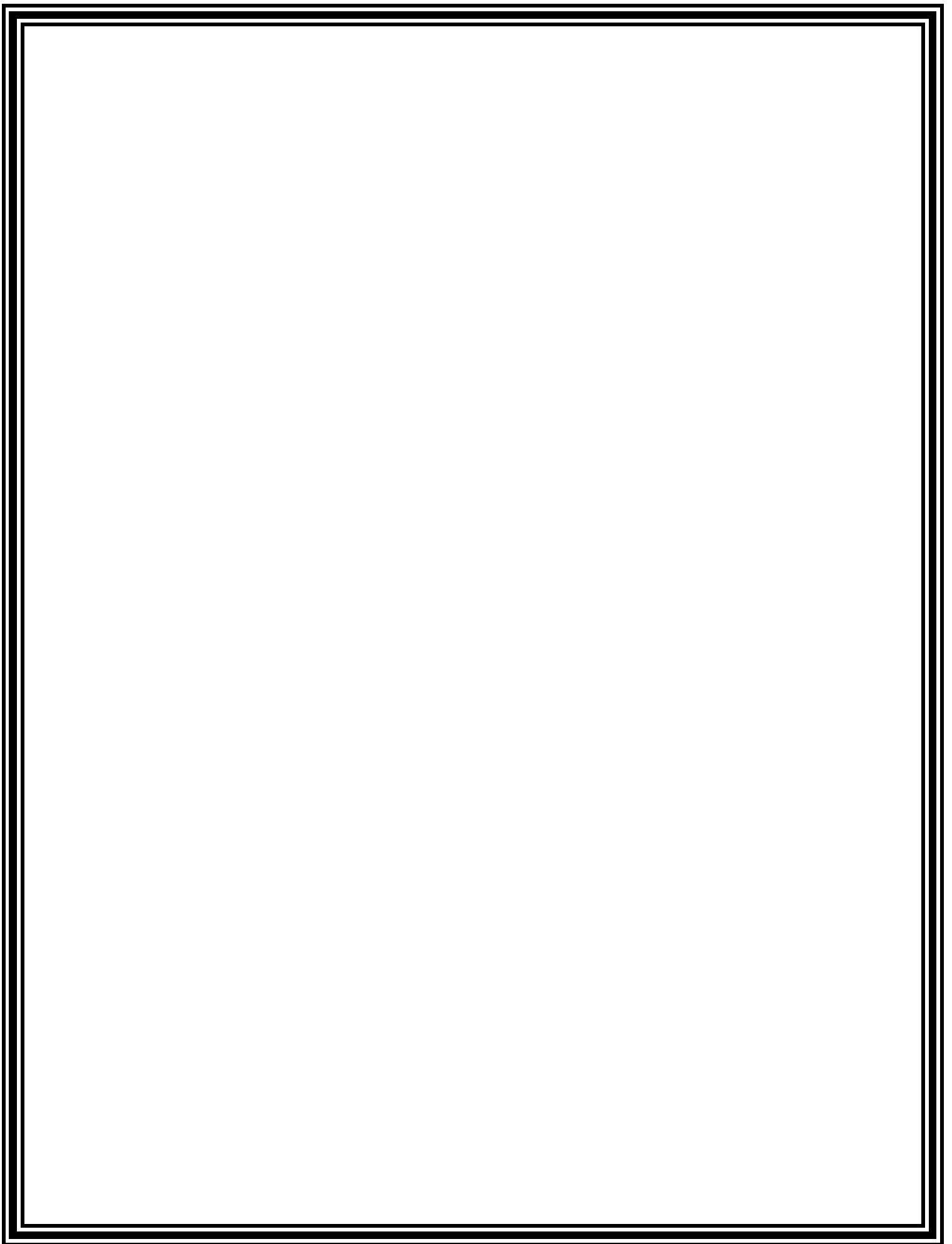
RHONDA G. SULSAR
SALINA, KANSAS
NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE

RHONDA SULSAR is the Supervisory Contract Specialist for the Kansas State Office of the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). *MS. SULSAR* is responsible for awarding and administering contracts in the State, working on both Federally awarded and locally awarded watershed contracts.

MS. SULAR has always worked closely with numerous small businesses of all categories. She participated in four different “details” to help the State of Louisiana respond to the workload created by Hurricane Katrina. In that capacity, she was instrumental in assisting a local vendor enter the 8(a) Program and eventually receive over \$2 million in contract awards. She assisted that State Office in developing indefinite delivery/indefinite quantity contracts, blanket purchase agreements, and 8(a) contracts. These contracting vehicles assisted small, small disadvantaged, women-owned and Service Disabled Veteran-Owned businesses.

RHONDA SULSAR has worked in many emergency events to obtain contractors expeditiously. She has continued to ensure that small businesses are provided opportunities to assist with the required work to be accomplished. *MS. SULSAR* instituted a policy that the Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization Coordinator review all procurements prior to solicitation and each year she and her staff research efforts for outreach opportunities with small businesses.

***ABILITYONE
AWARD WINNERS***



USDA
2008 ABILITYONE
CONTRACTOR OF THE YEAR AWARD

IBS INDUSTRIES, INC.
INDEPENDENCE, MISSOURI
FARM SERVICE AGENCY

IBS INDUSTRIES, INC. (IBS), incorporated in 1967 as Jackson County Sheltered Workshop, and changed their name to *Independence and Blue Springs Industries, Inc. (IBS)* in 1969.

In 1989, *IBS* affiliated with NISH, the central non-profit agency serving people with severe disabilities, and became a part of the AbilityOne Program. They were awarded their first contract with the General Services Administration and have been providing clerical services, mailroom operations, and custodial services to the Federal government ever since.

IBS provided mailroom services to the Farm Service Agency's (FSA) Kansas City Beacon Facility and the Goodfellow Facility Mailroom in St. Louis, Missouri. The mailrooms operated by *IBS* were responsible for collecting, screening, sorting and delivering all incoming and outgoing mail including large volume projects to FSA's 2300 County Offices. They developed an idea for presorting the mail, which helped FSA reduce postage expenses.

IBS employees' outstanding mailroom performance led to their selection by FSA to handle administrative and general support services also. Their professional approach and attention to detail contributed to a seamless transition from FSA's previous contractor. Services provided included daily work requests, conference room set-ups, and audio-visual support. One of the many jobs supported by *IBS* was to provide audio/visual support including recording/editing conference video; equipment set-up and break-down; and capturing images, editing, formatting, and printing for FSA's annual International Food Aid Conference.

All work performed by *IBS* employees was completed as requested in a professional, courteous and timely manner. The *IBS* staff was always responsive and reliable. They had close communications with the Agency and surpassed FSA's expectations, often exceeding contractual requirements.

Shawna S. Clay
Shawna.clay@ibsindustries.com
(816) 255-9509

**USDA
AGENCY ABILITYONE
AWARD WINNERS**

***DELAWARE INDUSTRIES FOR THE BLIND
NEW CASTLE, DELAWARE
FOOD SAFETY AND INSPECTION SERVICE***

DELAWARE INDUSTRIES FOR THE BLIND (DIB) is a human services agency that provides a diverse array of products and services including awards, trophies, engraved signs, name badges, embroidery, artwork and much more. Their wide variety of products and services provides opportunities for blind and visually impaired people. The jobs and training provided by *DIB* results in income, increased independence, work experience, and marketable job skills for their employees.

DIB provided a variety of products to the Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS), including laptop cases, plaques, travel bags, embroidered jackets and shirts. The products were always of high quality, met requirements, and were delivered timely. *DIB* provided the FSIS Administrator's Excellence Awards under an extremely stringent timeline.

DIB was a very professional, responsive organization, and their employees and staff worked hard to provide the highest quality products available.

Alan Wingrove, General Manager
Alan.Wingrove@state.de.us
(302) 255-9871

***OPPORTUNITY RESOURCES INCORPORATED
MISSOULA, MONTANA
FOREST SERVICE***

OPPORTUNITY RESOURCES INCORPORATED (ORI) was established in 1955 as a community based non-profit corporation providing support for people with disabilities. Work opportunities provided by *ORI* include janitorial and mail room services, grounds maintenance, and more.

ORI supported the Forest Service's (FS) Missoula Fire and Technology Center (MFTC) during fire season by inspecting, sorting, sizing, rolling, and packaging sleeping bags, fire shirts and pants, and refurbishing fire gear. Tasks met all specifications at the highest level.

In the over 19 years of working with MFTC, *ORI* has never had a single deficiency noted. They provided high-quality services to the FS making them true members of the MFTC team.

Richard Ensign, Janitorial Coordinator
service@orimt.org
(406) 7 21-2930

SERVICESOURCE, INC.
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA
AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH SERVICE

SERVICESOURCE, INC., is a non-profit company based in Alexandria, VA. They provide outsourced labor services employing approximately 775 people. Their specialties include administrative support food services, mail center management, and bulk mail services.

SERVICESOURCE provided a wide variety of services to USDA for several different agencies. The company provided copier maintenance and mail center operations to Economic Research Service (ERS). They also stock copier rooms with paper and other supplies, and perform all the bulk copying at the ERS 'M' Street facility.

SERVICESOURCE employees took pride in their work, were eager to help, and consistently provided quality service. The mail was handled with care, on time, and delivered with a friendly smile.

Janet Samuelson, President and CEO
jsamuelson@ourpeoplework.org
(703) 461-6000

USDA
2008 ABILITYONE
SPECIAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARD WINNER

ED MCDONALD
CLEVELAND, TENNESSEE
CHEROKEE NATIONAL FOREST
FOREST SERVICE

ED McDONALD, the Contracting Officer for the Cherokee National Forest in Tennessee, provides contracting support to the El Yunque National Forest in Puerto Rico. He is responsible for the Cherokee Forest procurement program, manages purchases in four forest districts, supervises procurement employees, and serves as the Forest Property Management Officer.

In 2006, *ED McDONALD* contacted the NISH South Region office to add AbilityOne contracts to fulfill Forest Service requirements. A perfect fit was found to perform custodial cleaning and grounds maintenance services for the Tellico Ranger District's recreational areas. *MR. McDONALD* was persistent and ultimately successful in obtaining a service contract in time for the 2007 recreation season.

ED McDONALD also developed an opportunity for an AbilityOne non-profit agency in the El Yunque National Forest in Puerto Rico. The contract currently involves the operation of the El Portal Visitor Center, but *MR. McDONALD* is working to expand this contract to include a wider variety of job opportunities including grounds and physical plant maintenance. This contract will provide meaningful employment for people with disabilities for years to come.

ED McDONALD's hard work was recently rewarded with his selection by the NISH South Region as their 'AbilityOne Champion'. This honor is given to Federal employees who exemplify their commitment to assisting individuals with severe disabilities find meaningful employment.

The Senior Program Manager at the NISH South Region office stated that *ED McDONALD* promotes integrity and good stewardship of Federal contracting dollars through efficient and effective policies, procedures, and processes. *MR. McDONALD* is committed to advancing employment opportunities of people who are blind or have other severe disabilities as he continuously promotes the AbilityOne Program to his contemporaries.

**USDA
AGENCY ABILITYONE
SPECIAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARD WINNERS**

***SOFIA M. BASSO
PEORIA, ILLINOIS
AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH SERVICE***

SOFIA BASSO is a Purchasing Agent responsible for procuring supplies, services, and equipment for the Agricultural Research Service's National Center for Agricultural Utilization Research (NCAUR). As the local Agency Program Coordinator for approximately 80 purchase card holders, she is responsible for cardholder training, and maintaining and monitoring the purchase card system within the Center.

When the NCAUR decided to convert hard-copy research archive material to an electronic format, *MS. BASSO* recommended using the local Community Workshop and Training Center (CWTC). The CWTC provides programs and services to adults with disabilities optimizing their potential for independence and enriching their quality of life.

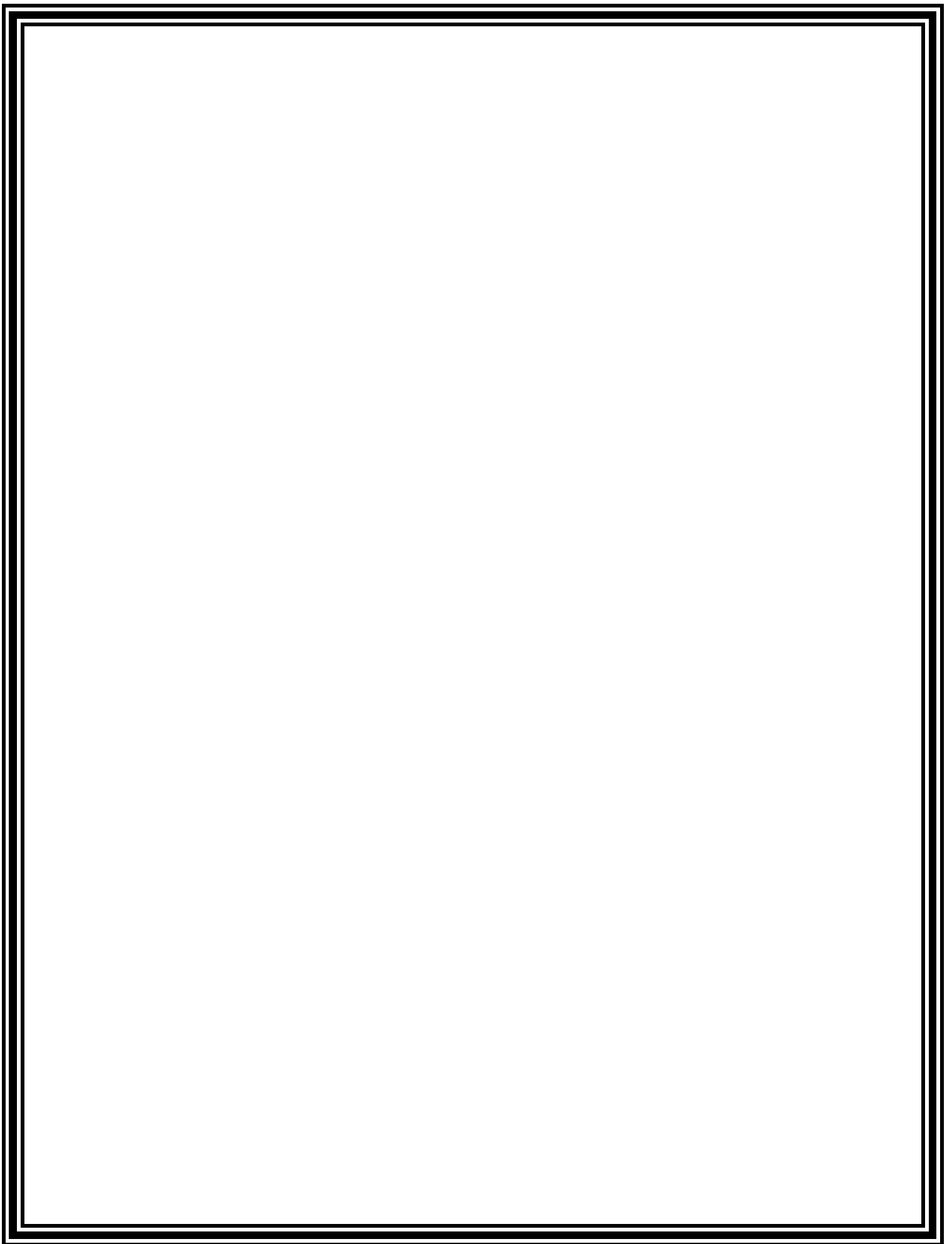
The CWTC consumers completed the work in a cost-effective, high quality manner, receiving a great deal of personal growth and increased financial independence. Thanks to *SOFIA BASSO*, this total success generated numerous inquiries, encouraging others to consider CWTC for future successful solutions.

***JANET ELM
WASHINGTON, D.C.
FOOD SAFETY AND INSPECTION SERVICE***

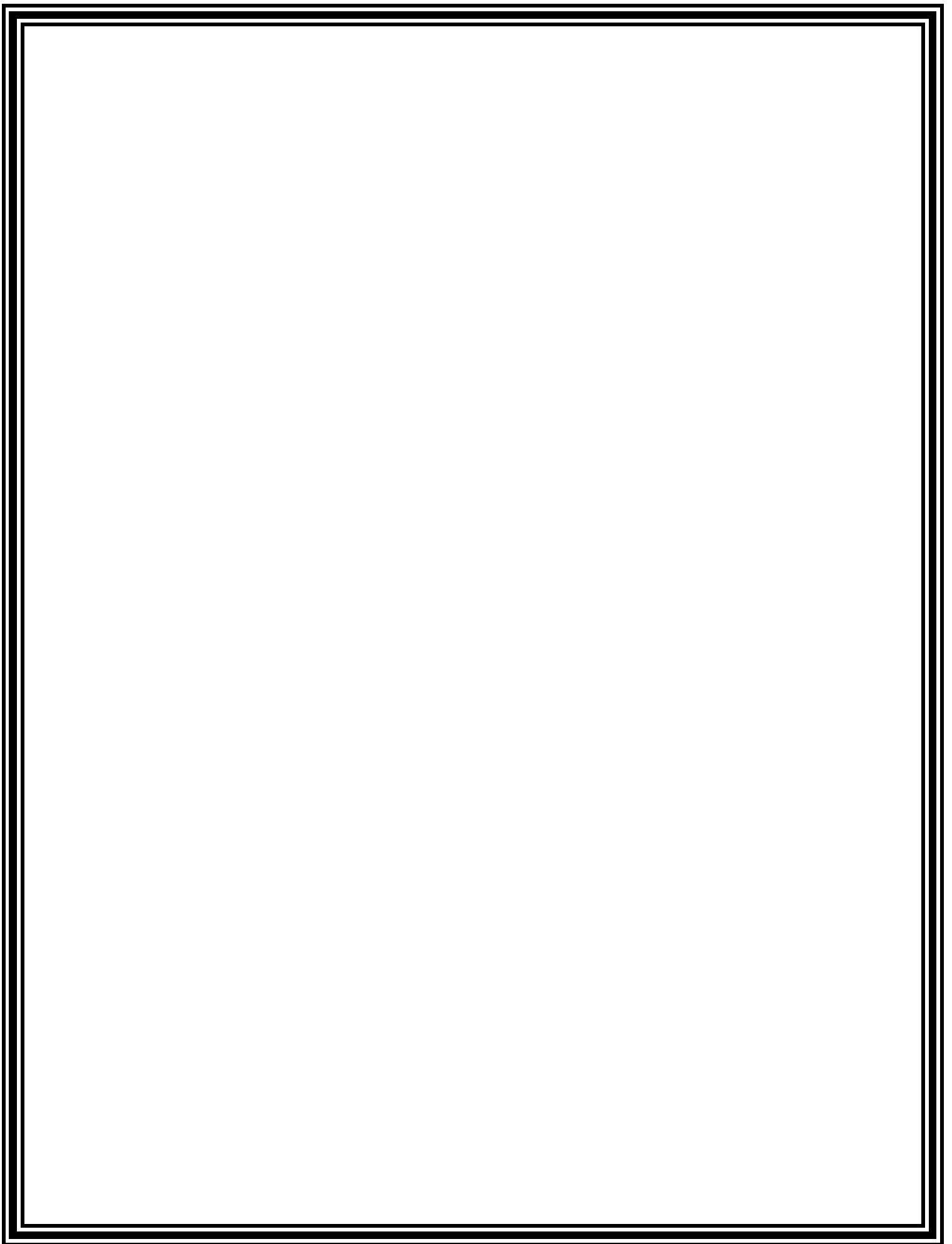
JANET ELM is a Contracting Officer responsible for acquisitions, agency-wide conferences, and the agency purchase card program which involves over 100 employees. While establishing accounts, training the card holders, and maintaining their accounts, she constantly promotes the consideration and use of AbilityOne Program non-profit agencies.

JANET ELM worked tirelessly to extend outreach efforts to increase AbilityOne Program procurements, specifically in the area of office supplies, green cleaners, hardware and industrial supplies. She implemented a Food Safety and Inspection Service Directive to educate purchase card holders on the value of using the AbilityOne Program.

JANET ELM has worked closely with members of the AbilityOne community and has increased participation of these non-profits in FSIS procurements. She has been a powerful advocate for people with disabilities.



***USDA
OFFICE OF SMALL
AND DISADVANTAGED
BUSINESS UTILIZATION
DIRECTOR'S
AWARD WINNERS***



USDA
OFFICE OF SMALL AND DISADVANTAGED
BUSINESS UTILIZATION
DIRECTOR'S AWARDS

CHRISTINE TYSON HARRISON
STRATEGIC BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT MANAGER
NISH/ABILITYONE PROGRAM

CHRISTINE TYSON HARRISON has worked for more than 30 years in Federally- funded contract services planning and administration, including developing and supporting award-winning high tech secure mail and business centers in private and public sectors.

MS. HARRISON currently serves as a Strategic Business Development Manager with NISH. NISH is one of the AbilityOne Program's central non-profit agencies creating employment opportunities for people with severe disabilities. Some current duties include supporting the Department of Homeland Security's Acquisition Plan for Consolidated Mail Services under the AbilityOne Program, and teaming with service disabled veterans and veteran organizations to help create contract opportunities and high tech jobs for service-disabled veterans.

For the past five years, *MS. HARRISON* has participated and assisted in the planning of the Department of Agriculture (USDA) AbilityOne National Disability Employment Awareness Month celebrations in Washington, D.C. and at two facilities in Maryland. Recently she spoke about the AbilityOne Program and opportunities for veterans at a VetForce meeting held at USDA. Understanding the importance of partnering with all small businesses, she willingly participates in the Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization's First Tuesday meetings, speaking and presenting when requested.

When the decision was made to provide formalized training for the USDA Agency AbilityOne Program Liaisons, *MS. HARRISON* lead the effort to put together a day-long training session held at NISH headquarters. The training was a huge success, and she has already volunteered to assist with any future sessions.

CHRISTINE HARRISON'S invaluable contributions assisted USDA agencies exceed their AbilityOne procurement goals. She is always proud to say she is a "member" of the USDA team, and we are proud to include her in our family.

DALE W. MOORE
CHIEF OF STAFF
TO THE SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE

DALE W. MOORE was named Chief of Staff to Secretary Ann Veneman in February 2001. Before joining the Department of Agriculture (USDA), he served as the Executive Director, Legislative Affairs, at the Washington, D.C. based National Cattleman's Beef Association from 1997 until his appointment to USDA.

MR. MOORE was Legislative Director of the Committee on Agriculture at the U.S. House of Representatives from 1995-96, where he worked on the formulation and passage of the 1996 Farm Bill. From 1993-94, he worked as the Republican Legislative Coordinator for the House Agriculture Committee.

He served as the Minority Counsel for the House Agriculture Committee's Subcommittee on Department Operations, Research, and Foreign Agriculture from 1991-93. From 1985-91, he was Agricultural Legislative Assistant for (then) U.S. Representative Pat Roberts, who is now a U.S. Senator from Kansas.

MR. MOORE is a native of Copeland, Kansas, where he was raised on a livestock, hay, and grain farm. He graduated from Fort Hays State University with a B.S. degree in Animal Science/Biology.

JOE WARE
ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR
OFFICE OF SMALL AND DISADVANTAGED BUSINESS UTILIZATION

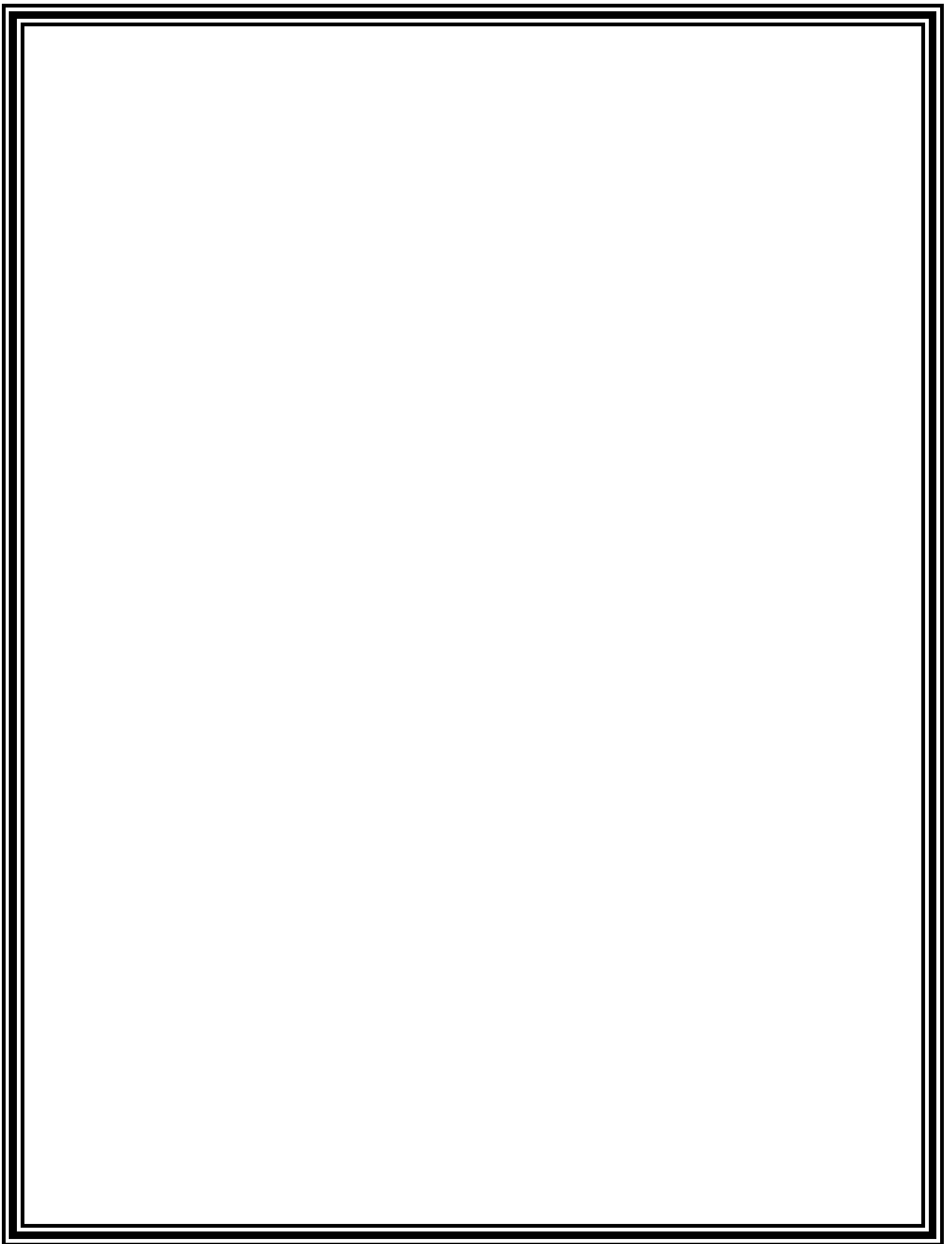
JOE WARE is Deputy Director in the Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization (OSDBU) at the Department of Agriculture with responsibilities for implementing and administering programs affecting small and disadvantaged businesses.

At OSDBU, he initiated and developed programs to provide coordinated USDA outreach to support small business development in economically distressed areas by leveraging public/private partnerships to assist small businesses to develop the capacity to engage in Federal and commercial contracts and create jobs.

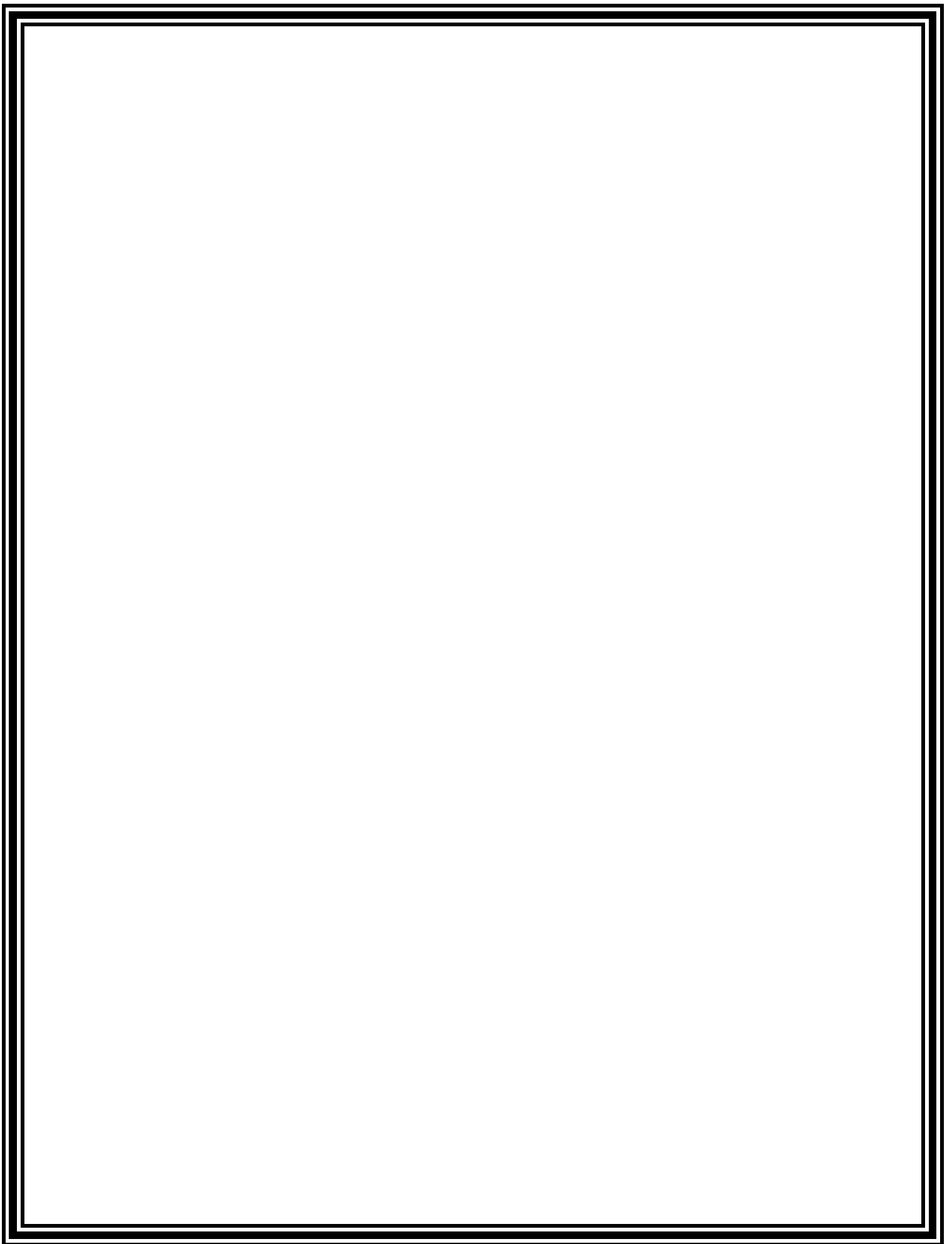
While at the Office of the Chief Information Officer, he was instrumental in developing and leading major oversight functions such as Capital Planning and Investment Control for USDA Agencies' information technology programs. He was an early pioneer in the Federal Government advocating that Agencies link their information technology planning, budgets and procurement processes to improve the cost-effectiveness and usefulness of information technology systems to support program delivery.

Previously as an Economist at the Farm Service Agency (then the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service), he provided economic analyses and econometric modeling, statistical design and appraisal of Agency systems, and analyses of emerging issues.

MR. WARE holds a B.S. in Agricultural Economics from West Virginia University and M.S. in Agricultural and Resource Economics from the University of Maryland.



***A LITTLE ABOUT
THE
SPEAKERS
AND
PRESENTERS***



SPEAKERS' AND PRESENTERS' BIOGRAPHIES

ED SCHAFER SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE

ED SCHAFER was sworn in as the 29th Secretary of the Department of Agriculture (USDA) on January 28, 2008.

SECRETARY SCHAFER brings a record as an innovative two-term Governor of North Dakota to USDA along with extensive private sector experience as both an entrepreneur and a business executive.

SECRETARY SCHAFER served as North Dakota's governor from 1992 to 2000 and made diversifying and expanding North Dakota's economy, reducing the cost of government and advancing agriculture his top priorities in office.

He worked to normalize trading relations with China and develop that nation as an export market for North Dakota farm products. He also led efforts to upgrade North Dakota's communications infrastructure and make high-speed voice and data networks available to farmers, ranchers and rural businesses.

To expand the state's job base, he encouraged the growth of value-added agricultural industries such as pasta and corn sweetener manufacturing.

As Governor, *SECRETARY SCHAFER* managed a state workforce of 12,000 people, oversaw a budget of \$4.6 billion, and led the state's response to emergencies such as the severe floods that hit the Grand Forks area in 1997.

As Chair of the Western Governors Association, *SECRETARY SCHAFER* led regional efforts to demonstrate how technology could improve the efficiency and lower the cost of delivering government services such as health benefits and food stamps. He also worked to make telemedicine more available and affordable in rural areas.

SECRETARY SCHAFER was elected Chair of the Republican Governors Association in 2000 and that same year he co-founded and co-chaired and Governors Biotechnology Partnership to increase public understanding and support for the benefits of agricultural biotechnology.

He has had a lifelong interest in conservation and helped arrange the Forest Service's May 2007 purchase of the 5,200 acre Elkhorn Ranch in North Dakota. The site was where Theodore Roosevelt had his home and operated a cattle ranch in the 1880s. It is near the preserved town of Medora – the state's leading tourist attraction.

Born and raised in Bismarck, North Dakota, *SECRETARY SCHAFER* graduated from the University of North Dakota in 1969 with a bachelor's degree in Business Administration and earned an MBA from the University of Denver in 1970.

SECRETARY SCHAFER'S grandfather immigrated to North Dakota from Denmark and homesteaded land in Hettinger County that he turned into a wheat and livestock farm. He spent summers there while growing up. He helped his uncles with chores, tinkered with engines and learned firsthand about agriculture.

Before entering public life, *SECRETARY SCHAFER* was an executive with the Gold Seal Company in Bismarck, a successful marketer of nationally-known consumer products such as “Mr. Bubble” bubble bath, “Glass Wax” glass cleaner and “Snowy Bleach.” The company had been founded by his father, Harold Schafer.

SECRETARY SCHAFER joined Gold Seal after he earned his MBA and held a series of management positions with the company before becoming president in 1978. Under his leadership, Gold Seal’s sales climbed to \$50 million through acquisitions and new product introductions and its net worth tripled. It was sold in 1986. He then went on to launch several new businesses, including a commercial real estate development company, a fish farm and a classic car dealership.

After leaving office in 2000, he co-founded Extend America, a venture capital-backed company, to provide wireless voice and high-speed data services to commercial and residential customers in five rural Midwestern states.

He also served as a director of the Theodore Roosevelt Medora Foundation that oversees the historic town’s operations and became active in leading several other nonprofit and citizens advocacy groups in North Dakota.

SECRETARY SCHAFER enjoys the outdoors and his hobbies include bicycling, hiking, scuba diving and restoring classic automobiles. He and his wife, Nancy, have four children: Tom Schafer, Ellie Schafer, Eric Jones and, Kari Hammer. They also have eight grandchildren.

JAMES E. HOUSE
DIRECTOR
OFFICE OF SMALL AND DISADVANTAGED BUSINESS UTILIZATION

JAMES E. HOUSE was appointed by Secretary Ann M. Veneman as the Director, Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization on December 31, 2001.

Just prior to returning to USDA, he served as president of a Bowie, Maryland based professional services firm, the Eckenberge Group. As President of the National Association of African American Business Owners, he led the organization into national prominence as an effective leading advocate for small business development.

MR. HOUSE participated in drafting subcontracting provisions of Public Law 95-507, which amended the Small Business Act and subsequently creating Offices of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization in most Federal Departments. This provision was signed into law in 1978.

Before entering the small business arena, *MR. HOUSE* began his career as an engineer in the aerospace industry, working in the successful 1970 certification of Boeing's 747.

MR. HOUSE is a native of Wayne County, Goldsboro, North Carolina, and holds a Bachelor of Science degree in mechanical engineering from Howard University in Washington, D.C.

BOYD K. RUTHERFORD
ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR ADMINISTRATION
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

BOYD K. RUTHERFORD was appointed on May 12, 2006, to serve as Assistant Secretary for Administration with the Department of Agriculture.

MR. RUTHERFORD comes to USDA from a previous appointment in which he served as Secretary for the Maryland Department of General Services under Governor Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr.

Prior to his term with Governor Ehrlich, *MR. RUTHERFORD* was appointed by President George W. Bush to serve as Associate Administrator for the U.S. General Services Administration's Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization. In this position he was responsible for monitoring and implementing small business policies and managing small business programs that worked to expand opportunities and technological capabilities through increased participation of small, minority and women-owned businesses in Federal procurement. Within one year, he was given the added responsibility to serve as Associate Administrator for Performance Improvement.

MR. RUTHERFORD, a lawyer with extensive business experience, directed business development for Kelly Law Registry of Washington, D.C., where he was responsible for marketing, legal staffing and placement solutions in the private and public sectors. *MR. RUTHERFORD* gained his expertise in regulatory compliance, government regulations and administrative law as legal counsel to major automotive and legal firms in California, Maryland, and Washington, D.C.

In 1979, *MR. RUTHERFORD* graduated from Howard University with a Bachelor's degree in Economics and Political Science. By 1990 he had earned his law degree along with a Master's degree in Communications Management from the University of Southern California.

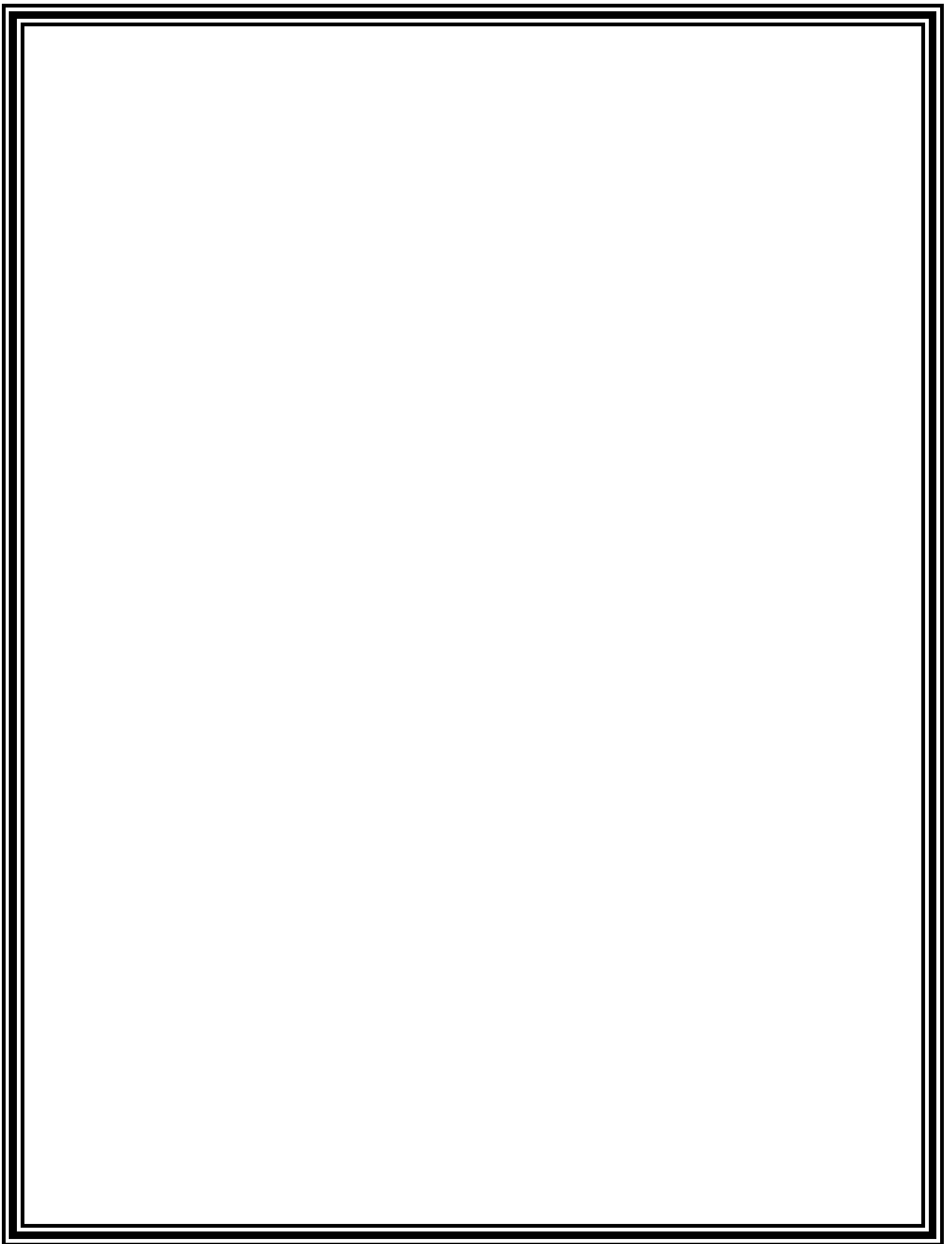
GILBERT L. SMITH, JR.
DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY
FOR ADMINISTRATION

GILBERT L. SMITH, JR. was appointed by President George W. Bush as the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Administration on August 6, 2006. *MR. SMITH* brings a wealth of knowledge to our service and support function furthering the Department of Agriculture's (USDA) broad missions toward service to the nation.

MR. SMITH comes to USDA with nearly 26 years of experience leading and managing operation organizations ranging from small medical clinics to a Fortune Global 1000 IT consulting and services firm. His extensive resource and financial management experience base centers on performance management, innovation, and creative business solutions.

MR. SMITH most recently served as the Deputy Chief Operating Officer, Office of Administration, Executive Office of the President where he was accountable for several business operations areas supporting the Presidency. During the Administration's first term, President Bush appointed *MR. SMITH* to serve as the Associate Director of the Peace Corps. In this capacity he was responsible for the business operations and management of this well-known worldwide international development agency, deploying over 7800 volunteers to more than 70 developing countries around the world. *MR. SMITH* managed over 500 properties outside the United States, 14 domestic facilities, a worldwide vehicle fleet, transportation for volunteers and staff worldwide, logistics, human resources management, and headquarters operations. Prior to joining the Bush Administration, *MR. SMITH* served as the Manager of Corporate Treasury Operations for American Management Systems, Incorporated.

A native of Barrington, Rhode Island, and Reisterstown, Maryland, *MR. SMITH* is now a resident of Prince William County where he serves as a District Representative to the Disability Services Board and the Committee for Persons with Disabilities. He is a disabled veteran and served 20 years in the United States Navy. He is a graduate of the State University of New York at Albany, and Husson College, in Bangor, Maine with degrees focused in social science, human resources, business finance and healthcare management.



***THANK YOU TO ALL THE AWARD WINNERS AND
THOSE WHO CAME FROM NEAR AND FAR TO
PARTICIPATE IN THIS PROGRAM.***

THIS HAS BEEN A SPECIAL DAY FOR ALL OF US.

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