



Committed to the future of rural communities.

IN THIS ISSUE:

- Cultural Transformation
- Missouri Rural Development Student Trainee Staff
- Students Benefit From Rural Development Assistance
- USDA Rural Development Finances Andrew County Jail
- Recipient Of Rural Development Business & Industry Guaranteed Loan Provides Disaster Assistance
- REAPing Benefits Of The Rural Energy For America Program
- City of Gallatin Celebrates Funding For Water System
- 504 Housing Program Enhances Life For Sikeston Woman

# BUILDING COMMUNITIES

VOLUME 2011 ISSUE 4

OCTOBER 1, 2011



**Janie Dunning**  
*Missouri State Director*

## GREETINGS FROM THE MISSOURI STATE OFFICE OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT!

**EVERY DAY EVERY WAY!**

### IF WEEDS CAN DO IT, SO CAN WE!!

If you've been farming very long, and even if you haven't, you know that weeds have a way of "figuring things out." They somehow reinvent themselves to become resistant to whatever is being forced upon them. Drought. Herbicides. Flooding. Cultivation. Weeds survive.

What does that scenario have to do with us at USDA Rural Development? The analogy itself has very little to do with Rural Development. But it has everything to do with all of us who live and work for Rural America.

Rural America now accounts for a mere 16 percent of the nation's population, *the lowest ever*. Yet we feed the world. And despite our decreasing numbers, we have an increasing role in our nation's energy independence. Unfortunately, our contribution to energy self-sufficiency notwithstanding, the recent Census indicates that "rural" is becoming more and more irrelevant. If you are like me, you do not like hearing this! No one wants to be considered immaterial, especially when we've long known that "rural" is the foundation of our country and its economy.

Hence, if there is strength in numbers, and we are on a documented decline, what do we do? What are our options? Maybe we need to start "thinking" like a weed. Weeds seem to subscribe to the survival of the fittest theory; they thrive in adverse conditions. So how can we, as rural Americans in Missouri, be innovative and do our part in bringing rural back to the forefront to thrive like weeds? We must adapt and play to our strengths. We must continue to do what Missouri, the Show-Me State, does best, keep providing the assistance needed to our rural communities to not only sustain them, but keep them growing!

It's not the strongest species that survives...it is the one able to adapt, adopt and accept change. We are once again in challenging times but we have been there before and I must say I believe the "weed theory" kicks in when it needs to. Rural Development and all our partners in Missouri need to be there for our rural communities and provide assistance as they go through changes they too are experiencing. We can help our rural population grow these communities with jobs and economic growth as well as all the other programs that rural communities so desperately need.

***IF WEEDS CAN DO IT, SO CAN WE!!***

Janie Dunning  
State Director

# Cultural Transformation

One of Agriculture Secretary Vilsack's most important goals is creating a cultural transformation at USDA. Many actions and initiatives are currently underway throughout the Department to bring about the transformation.

There is still some confusion about just what the Cultural Transformation Initiative means in real terms. In other words, what does it look like and how does Rural Development implement it?

Cultural Transformation is - the process of creating a workplace where all employees and customers are treated with dignity and respect and provided the opportunity for success.

In terms of personnel, it looks like a modern day snapshot of America. It includes a workforce that reflects the demographic make-up of the citizens we serve.

In terms of organization, Cultural Transformation means adapting to the technological advancements of social media and recognizing their cultural implications to our organizational performance. Our ability to effectively respond to our customer needs requires us to incorporate the most recent communication and information methods into our work culture. That doesn't mean abandoning customers who aren't online or tech-savvy, but it does mean recognizing that our work processes must be compatible with all our customers.

Missouri USDA Rural Development has made its own efforts at offering more opportunities to a diversified group of young individuals through the Student Trainee Program. All students selected to participate are each individually talented and bring fresh ideas to the department. Missouri Rural Development managers across the state were granted the opportunity to hire students from diversified backgrounds. We are truly honored to be able to offer such a great experience for these students. Not only does it offer them the opportunity to work with a federal agency, but it educates them of Rural Development's contribution to the residents of rural Missouri.

**Missouri Rural Development State Director Anita J. (Janie) Dunning is excited at the prospect of helping to develop young people's acceptance of change, computer skills, work ethic, and generally be open to suggestion from other employees.**

**These are all components of a successful future for these young people.**

**Our employees are also excited being able to participate in the development of our student trainees.**

**The future is brighter for employees and trainees as they develop a relationship with each other, and the Agency.**

**Janie Dunning**

**Missouri Rural Development State Director**

# Missouri Rural Development Student Trainee Staff



Josh Wilson, 20, of Columbia, Mo., graduated from Hickman High School in 2010. Similar to most young men his age, Wilson loves fishing and playing video games. Wilson currently majors in accounting at Moberly Area Community College and is a recipient of the A-Plus full ride academic scholarship. Wilson has been working on his family farm since the age of 7 and says that agriculture has been a part of his family's life over many generations. Josh spends his working hours in the Missouri State Office in Columbia, Missouri, Housing Program.



Alex Johnson, 22, of Parma, Mo., graduated from Bernie High School in 2007. Johnson served as a Missouri state FFA officer during his senior year of high school. Johnson currently attends the University of Missouri where he is majoring in science and agricultural journalism. His personal interest and hobbies include collegiate sports, soul food, and being lazy on the weekends. Johnson dedicated three years to the Missouri Tigers competitive spirit squad. Alex is employed in the Missouri State Office in Columbia, Missouri, Public Information.



Glenda "Tasha" Brandon, 33, of Essex, Mo., graduated from Richland High School in 1995. Brandon currently attends Hannibal LaGrange University where she is majoring in organizational management. Brandon believes her past experiences in customer service will assist her while working with USDA. During high school, Brandon was a highly active athlete. She was a softball player, volleyball player and cheerleader as well as being an active member of several extracurricular activities. Tasha works in the Poplar Bluff office in Area 6.



Kendra Donato, 22, of Kansas City Mo., graduated from Center High School in 2007. Donato was captain of her cheerleading squad and also a member of the Student Government Association. She currently attends Missouri Western State University and will be graduating in December of 2011 with a BA' in Business Marketing. Donato is a member of Delta Sigma Theta, Sorority Inc. and has served as treasurer. She is a big fan of educating herself on any topic, from hair to science. She also loves anything where she can express herself, including drawing, music, and crafts. Kendra is located in the Area 1 office in St. Joseph, Missouri.

Success!

Success!



Manuel "Manny" Vega, 23, of St. Joseph Mo., graduated from Central High School in 2007. During his high school career, Vega spent time serving as a member of student government and DECCA, a student business organization. He currently attends Missouri Western State University and expects to graduate in 2012 with a major in accounting and a finance minor. In his free time, he enjoys golf, volunteering, and reading. He believes his past leadership experience, as treasure of Phi Delta Theta Fraternity, will assist him as he works with USDA. Manuel is located in the Area 1 office in St. Joseph Missouri.



Emily Mell, 22, of Farmington, Mo., graduated from Farmington High School in 2008. Mell was active in Fellowship of Christian Athletes and volleyball. She currently attends Southeast Missouri State University majoring in Integrated Marketing Communications expecting graduation in December, 2011. She was inducted into Phi Eta Sigma (national honor society). Mell loves adventure which includes being thrown in a human slingshot and "zipping" around on the highest zip lines. Mell believes her communication skills will help her while she is completing her internship. Emily works in the Area 4 office in Farmington, Missouri.



Symone Johnson, 20, of St. Louis, Mo., graduated valedictorian from Lutheran High School North in 2009. Johnson currently attends Truman State University majoring in International Business with a minor in Spanish and Chinese. Her interests range from pageantry to volleyball. She has been playing sports since the age of 7 and playing the flute for the past 9 years. Johnson believes her language skills of working proficiency in Spanish and Mandarin-Chinese will aid her leadership skills as she fulfills her duties with the USDA Rural Development. Johnson works at the Area 2 office in Kirksville, Mo.



Kalyn Stevens, 21, of Bolivar Mo., graduated from Bolivar High School in May of 2008. During high school she was a member of the National Honors Society as well as the National FFA organization. Stevens currently attends Missouri State University in Springfield where she is majoring in agricultural business with a minor in animal science. Her past experiences as president of Sigma Alpha, a professional ag. Sorority, and president of Delta Tau Alpha, an ag. honors fraternity will help her work well with others. Stevens will undoubtedly admit that one of her greatest passions in life is agriculture and she loves involvement with the industry in any form or fashion. Kalyn spends her working hours at the Area 5 office in Springfield Missouri.

Mentoring  
Mentoring

Equality  
Equality



Jade Holly, 16, of Columbia Mo., currently attends Hickman High School. She is an athlete that participates in basketball. Holly believes her past experiences in high school have taught her great communication skills and how to work with different types of people. Her advice for students interested in a career with the USDA is to go for it and be prepared to learn a lot about the industry. She is a self proclaimed shy teen, but she feels these attributes are what makes her unique. Jade makes her work home at the Missouri State Office in Columbia, Missouri, Community Programs .



Monica Bledsoe, 20 of Shawnee, KS, will graduate from Truman State university in 2013., with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Finance, and a minor in general communications. She received a Scholastic Enhancement Education (SEE) Scholar Grant as well as a SEE Incentive Scholarship. She has a diverse work history as well as serving as night hall monitor for the Centennial Hall Residence Building, and Student Coordinator for the Multi-Cultural Affairs Center, both of which are on the Truman campus. In her spare time Monica enjoys media arts, scrapbooking , cooking, and traveling.- Monica makes her work home at the Area 2 Office in Kirksville, Mo



Moises Aguayo, 23, of St. Louis, Mo., moved to Missouri at the age of 8 from Zamora, Mexico. Aguayo attended Cleveland Naval Academy in St. Louis where he participated in soccer. He currently attends the University of Missouri where he is majoring in agricultural business with a minor in agricultural economics. Aguayo's most prominent activity in college was his leadership positions within HALO (Hispanic American Leadership Organization), where he has served as vice president as well as president. Aguayo loves being happy and being active. He participates in marathons and plays intramural soccer at MU. He will continue his work in the Business Programs Section as a student trines at the state office in Columbia, Mo.

## Diversity Diversity

Brianna Davis, age 18, attends Charleston High School, graduating in May of 2012.. Her class schedule consists of numerous college preparatory classes, and she is proud of her accomplishments in those classes. Brianna is a member of the marching band, Junior Reserve Officer's Training Corps, Future Teachers of America, and Students Against Drunk Driving, Student Council, and is a member of the track team. Brianna has previously worked for various establishments in and around Charleston, and feels that those experiences will aid her in her contribution to the USDA Rural Development Student Trainee program as she joins the staff in our Charleston office in Area 6.



# STUDENTS BENEFIT FROM RURAL DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE

The education of future rural generations is vital if a community wants to continue to support itself and offer increased economic value to a nation. Smaller universities offer higher education for rural youth, yet they may not always have the capacity to accommodate the increasing number of students. Rural communities must be able to offer unique educational experiences to sustain populations and to educate the masses.



Janie Dunning, *Barton Farm Campus* Missouri State Director, visited the North Central Missouri College (NCMC), a public community college located in Trenton, Missouri, on August 26, 2011, to celebrate the dedication of the Elizabeth and Arthur Barton Farm Campus. Grundy Electric Cooperative received a \$740,000 zero-interest loan from USDA Rural Development. The funds were used to provide financing to NCMC for the new campus facility.

The additional campus will allow the college to accommodate up to 200 students and will include several different buildings with their own respective purposes, each for educating the community and students. Two buildings are in use this fall semester, and construction has begun on a third building. The Lager Laboratory of Plant and Energy Science has classrooms, laboratories and an attached greenhouse. Courses in agriculture, botany, natural resources, alternative fuels, electricity and energy are held in the Lager Lab.

It also houses faculty offices, a community meeting room, and a 24 x 48 greenhouse. The Metcalf Center has space for instruction in basic ag mechanics, welding, farm safety, and related courses, along with storage for farm equipment. The future third building is intended as an animal science complex. It will have stalls for livestock, a dry rack for composting animal waste, and a storage shed. This building is expected to be ready for the start of the spring semester, 2012.

The campus grounds also feature a wind turbine, ponds, and test plots. The wind turbine will serve as a learning tool for NCMC's wind energy technician program as well as provide auxiliary energy for the campus. One of the ponds is two acres in size and will be managed under an agreement with the Missouri Department of Conservation and stocked with fish. The pond and a planned arboretum will serve as learning resources for college and high school students as well as area patrons.

Green technology has been incorporated in the development of the Barton Farm Campus. Other features in addition to the wind turbine include the collection of rainwater runoff for piping into the greenhouse for watering plants. Roof solar panels will provide an alternative water-heating source.

Rural Development is extremely proud to have been a part of this venture. Our youth are our future, and Rural Development's contribution to this campus serves to enhance their education and provide the community with viable resources.

# USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT FINANCES ANDREW COUNTY JAIL

Andrew County, Missouri, is in need of a new county jail facility. The building that houses the current 23 bed jail was originally built in 1905 for 17 males and 6 females. The facility is outdated and can no longer offer the community adequate levels of security, safety, bed capacity, and operational efficiency.

Realizing the need for the community, a non-profit organization, the Andrew County Public Benefit Corporation., was formed in January Of 2010. The purpose of the corporation was to investigate all avenues leading to the successful building of a new county jail.

After being faced with numerous difficulties, the corporation was approved for \$5.2 million in American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funding through the Rural Development Community Facility program, and an additional \$700,000 in a direct Community Facility loan. This loan program provides funding for essential public improvements to public bodies and non-profit corporations with substantial ties to the local community.

The Andrew County Public Benefit Corporation was able to finance the project by obtaining a forty year payback term on the Rural Development loans with an interest rate of 4% on the \$5.2 million loan and 4.25% on the \$700,000 loan.

The new jail will contain 17,600 square feet and will be capable of housing 63 inmates. The facility will provide law enforcement services for the entire Andrew County area.



*The Andrew County Jail as it stands today.*

The facility will have an approximate jail staff of 11 jailers and 4 dispatchers. New jobs have been created and the county and the community of Savannah will be better served by it's law enforcement

Janie Dunning, Missouri State Director for USDA Rural Development, presented a Certificate of Congratulations to the Andrew County Public Benefit Corporation on Tuesday, September 13, 2011.

HMN Architects, Inc. of Overland Park, KS are the project architects. Snyder and Associates, Engineers and Planners LLC of St. Joseph will be assisting with construction inspection services.

Funding of this new building is another example of Rural Development being committed to the future of rural communities," said Dunning. "Appreciation is extended to our federal elected officials for supporting Rural Development. They have been strong proponents for the necessary funding for essential services for rural Missourians."

# RECIPIENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT BUSINESS & INDUSTRY GUARANTEED LOAN PROVIDES DISASTER ASSISTANCE



Pioneer Warehouse and Logistics, Inc., is the recipient of a \$3,270,000 Business & Industry Guaranteed Loan funded by USDA Rural Development. The funds will be used to provide long-term financing for a new food-grade warehouse in Joplin, Missouri. The facility is very valuable to the Joplin, Missouri, community which was devastated by a tornado on May 22, 2011. The new warehouse provides essential storage of food and other perishables and has the potential to create nine new jobs and saved nine existing jobs.

Business for rentals is very strong with local companies, state, and federal agencies to secure long-term leasing contracts to use the warehouse for a Food Grade distribution facility. During the recent tornado the warehouse was not damaged and is only located a few blocks from the devastation, thus enhancing the capability of using this as a food warehouse for the disaster recovery effort.

The recent storm devastation has allowed the facility to become of great importance to meet the needs of the citizens of Joplin to distribute food, clothing, and even medical supplies to those in need or the officials responding to the disaster. The facility works together with its sister company, Pioneer

Freight systems, to move products according to the Community's need.

The company also feels a responsibility to take good care of the precious

resources that have been entrusted to our care, and feel it is important that they do their part to ensure that the environment we all have enjoyed during our lives will also be enjoyed by our children and grandchildren. "It is the right thing to do!"



*Loading docks*



*30' stack height for FEMA storage*



# REAPing BENEFITS OF THE RURAL ENERGY FOR AMERICA PROGRAM

'Flex fuel vehicles' are helping to wean the nation off of its dependency on foreign oil. USDA Rural Development, through the Rural Energy for America Program (REAP), hopes to guarantee that more fuel station blender pump options will be offered in rural areas as well as metropolitan areas. More blender pumps equates to more options for flex fuel vehicle drivers in every part of the state.

A portion of the REAP program administers grants to fuel station owners as an incentive to offer more fuel options at their stations.

Since the spring of 2011, Missouri USDA Rural Development processed applications that approved financing of a total of 26 fuel pumps through the REAP program. Canales was pleased to watch the entire progression of the financing from rollout of the program in May up to the unveiling of the financed blender pump.

Judy Canales, Administrator of USDA Rural Development Rural Business-Cooperative Service, visited Platte-Clay Fuel's service station pump at Kearney, Mo. It is one of the first recipients of a grant aiding in the development of more blender pumps across the nation. Anita J. (Janie) Dunning, Missouri State Director, and Mike Torres, Platte-Clay Electric Co-op CEO, and other key stakeholders joined Canales in the unveiling of the new pump at the service station.

"Missouri is standing tall in growing its own for the nation," Canales said during her



*Judy Canales, USDA Rural Development Administrator of Business and Cooperative Programs, demonstrates the ease of using a blender pump at the Platte-Clay fuel station in Kearney, MO*

visit to the Platte-Clay fueling station. "I thank all for you for your fine efforts. We were so pleased to come back here and launch this campaign. Here I come, three months later. And we've got results!"

USDA Rural Development is continuing its efforts in helping fuel stations offer more renewable fuel options to consumers in every corner of the of the nation. By offering incentives, USDA Rural Development has become a key player in our nations campaign to produce our own renewable fuel and reduce our dependence on foreign oil.



*Your choice!*

# CITY OF GALLATIN CELEBRATES FUNDING FOR WATER SYSTEM

Janie Dunning, Missouri State Director for USDA Rural Development, presented a Certificate of Congratulations to the City of Gallatin on Tuesday, September 13, 2011 in recognition of the recent funding the City received.

The funding for the water system improvements consist of a \$3.296 million loan and a grant of \$819,490 through the USDA Rural Development's Water and Environmental Program. These funds will be used to construct a new water treatment plant that will insure a potable water supply to the 1,789 residents of Gallatin and to Daviess PWSD #2, who purchases water from the City. These improvements will address much needed maintenance and operational issues with the City's existing older water treatment plant.

"Having an environmentally safe water system is important and I commend all the partners for their hard work in making this project a reality," said Dunning. "I am pleased that the residents of the City of Gallatin will benefit from a substantially improved water system."

"The new water treatment plant will insure that a safe and adequate water supply will be available to Gallatin's residents, businesses and the water district," said Gallatin Mayor Barbara Ballew. "This project will allow for an efficient and economical public water system. The City of Gallatin would like to thank our elected officials for their support of these projects and the financial assistance available through USDA Rural Development. We would also like to thank City Administrator Zac Johnson for his dedication and work in securing the funding."



*Janie Dunning (in black) is shown with congressional representatives and Gallatin leaders following the certificate presentation*

Lance Rains, Community Development Coordinator, with the Green Hills Regional Planning Commission is assisting the City in their efforts to secure \$500,000 of additional grant funds through the Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG). The Missouri Department of Economic Development administers CDBG funds.

By obtaining Rural Development financing, a fixed interest rate of 2.875% with a 35-year repayment term was secured for the \$3.296 million loan for the water system improvements. USDA Rural Development's Water and Environmental Programs are available to eligible entity's to provide financing for public water and sanitary sewer facilities for rural residents.



*Congressional representatives signing symbolic pipe*

# 504 HOUSING PROGRAM ENHANCES LIFE FOR SIKESTON WOMAN

Ms. Saphrey Robison of Sikeston says that she is “absolutely thrilled” with repairs she recently made to her home. Ms. Robison has nerve damage to her legs and needed repairs to make her home more accessible for her needs. She contacted the local USDA Rural Development office in Charleston and worked with them to utilize the 504 Home Repair Program. With this program homeowners may obtain loans to make home repairs such as a new roof, windows, heat and air units in addition to items that will make the property handicap accessible. Grant funds may be available for those 62 years of age and older that are unable to repay a loan. Applicants must meet income and credit guidelines. Applicants use the contractor of their choice to make the needed repairs.

Ms. Robison states that “these repairs will allow me to keep my independence and will make my home so much more easy to get around in. These are things that we take for granted until we are unable to do as we once did”

She also added “not only is it more accessible for me but my family as well. My sister, who is also disabled, has not been able to come to my house since I did not have a handrail at my door until now She is now able to come to my house to visit”.



*Saphrey Robison is happy that she can now reach the items on her countertops.*

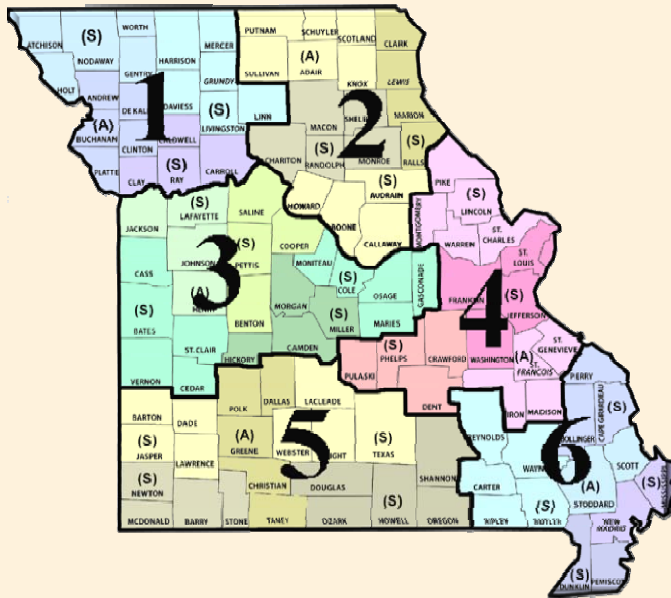
*USDA Rural Development's human resources supports Rural Development programs by assisting managers in the development strategies of employment, cultural transformation, work organization, training and resource management.*

*If you are seeking employment, please take a moment to visit [USA Jobs Online](#) for available positions or call Linda Zamarione at (314) 457-5559.*

*We appreciate the opportunity to serve you!*

*USDA prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or a part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication or program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (Voice and TDD).*

To file a complaint of discrimination write to USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD).



**MISSOURI  
Rural Development  
State Office**

601 Business Loop 70 West  
Parkade Center, Suite 235  
Columbia, MO 65203-2546  
Phone: (573) 986-0976

**Anita J. (Janie) Dunning  
State Director**

Email:  
janie.dunning@mo.usda.gov

Area 1	Area 2	Area 3
<p><b>St. Joseph Area Office</b> <b>Neal S. Miller</b> <b>Area Director</b> 3915 Oakland Avenue St. Joseph MO 64506 PHONE: 816-364-3927 FAX: 816-364-0562 <b>neal.miller@mo.usda.gov</b></p>	<p><b>Kirkville Area Office</b> <b>Rande S. Bryan</b> <b>Area Director</b> 2410 S Franklin St. Kirkville MO 63501 PHONE: 660-665-3274 FAX: 660-665-0266 <b>rande.bryan@mo.usda.gov</b></p>	<p><b>Clinton Area Office</b> <b>Kelly N. Gregory</b> <b>Area Director</b> 1306 N 2<sup>nd</sup> St. Clinton MO 64735 PHONE: 660-885-5567 FAX: 660-885-6260 <b>kelly.gregory@mo.usda.gov</b></p>
Area 4	Area 5	Area 6
<p><b>Farmington Area Office</b> <b>Terry A. Luetkemeyer</b> <b>Area Director</b> 812 Progress Drive Farmington MO 63640 PHONE: 573-756-6413 FAX: 573-756-8037 <b>terry.luetkemeyer@mo.usda.gov</b></p>	<p><b>Springfield Area Office</b> <b>Mark Hultgren</b> <b>Area Director</b> 688 S State Hwy. B, Ste. 400 Springfield MO 65802 PHONE: 417-831-5246 FAX: 417-863-0256 <b>mark.hultgren@mo.usda.gov</b></p>	<p><b>Dexter Area Office</b> <b>Greg Batson</b> <b>Area Director</b> 18450 Ridgeview Lane Dexter MO 63841 PHONE: 573-624-5939 FAX: 573-624-6964 <b>gregory.batson@mo.usda.gov</b></p>

**Please visit our website at:**

**<http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/mo>**

