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## USAID TO SUPPORT YOUNG BLACE DAIRY FARMERS WITH BACKING FOR NEW FARMING DEVELOPMENT CENTER

**BELGRADE (July 18, 2012)** – Three young veterinary technicians from Blace will be hired to run a new Farming Development Center that will introduce state-of-the-art breeding technologies to improve herds and increase milk production on local youth-owned cattle farms. The center is a USAID-supported public-private partnership between the Municipality of Blace and the Lazar Dairy, which currently provides a secure market for young dairy farmers.

The U.S. Agency for International Development is also providing \$5,000 worth ultrasound equipment to be used in cattle breeding. The Municipality of Blace and Lazar Dairy will train 15 young technicians to use the equipment. The Farming Development Center will hire its three technicians from the training class. The others will have the technical knowledge to help them find work in the local dairy market.

The classes and center are helping to address Serbia's high rate of youth unemployment and are designed to keep young people in the Blace area and ward off economic stagnation.

The partnership between the Municipality of Blace and Lazar Dairy is a part of the USAID-backed local Youth Entrepreneurship Action Plan (YEAP), tailor-made strategies to fight youth unemployment through the promotion of entrepreneurship. Blace adopted its YEAP with USAID support in 2011.

Since 2007, 27 Serbian municipalities have adopted YEAPs, enabling more than 12,000 young people to benefit from their programs and activities. Support for youth entrepreneurship is one of USAID's activities to speed economic recovery in Serbia.

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For more information, contact the USAID Economic Security Project's Communications Office at [tibor\\_jona@dai.com](mailto:tibor_jona@dai.com), or +381-63 215-651, or visit <http://www.economicsecurity.rs>.

*Since 2001 USAID has invested more than \$662.7 million to stimulate economic growth, strengthen the justice system, and promote good governance in Serbia.  
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