



United States Department of Agriculture

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# Press Release

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## **USDA Rural Development Finances Water Treatment Plant in Leoti**

Topeka, Kan., April 22, 2013 -- As part of USDA's Earth Day celebration, USDA Rural Development State Director Patty Clark announced funding for the City of Leoti that will improve water services for rural Kansans. The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) remains focused on carrying out its mission, despite a time of significant budget uncertainty. Today's announcement is one part of the Department's efforts to strengthen the rural economy.

USDA Rural Development is providing a \$2.675 million loan and \$1.3805 million grant through its Water and Environmental Programs (WEP) to the City of Leoti. The funds will be used to build a water treatment plant that will remove nitrates from the city's water supply. The new water treatment plant will allow the city to come into compliance with the Safe Drinking Water Act requirements, and will supply residents with a safe and reliable water supply.

"USDA Rural Development provides critical financing for rural Kansas communities looking to improve their water and wastewater infrastructure," said Clark. "Federal funds are being invested in the city of Leoti to improve its drinking water supply for its 1,500 residents, and improve the community for current and future generations."

Earth Day is observed annually on April 22 to raise awareness about the role each person can play to protect vital natural resources and safeguard the environment. Since the first Earth Day celebration in 1970, the event has expanded to include participation by citizens and governments in more than 195 countries.

"The City is partnering with USDA Rural Development to build the water treatment plant because it needs to improve the quality of our water supply for residents, and USDA Rural Development provided us with affordable financing that allowed us to move forward with the project," stated Kasper Lechtenberg, Leoti City Clerk. "The new treatment plant will bring us into compliance with safe drinking water standards, and will help protect our water supply for

years to come.”

USDA, through its Rural Development mission area, has a portfolio of programs designed to improve the economic stability of rural communities, businesses, residents, farmers and ranchers and improve the quality of life in rural America.

USDA has made a concerted effort to deliver results for the American people, even as USDA implements sequestration – the across-the-board budget reductions mandated under terms of the Budget Control Act. USDA has already undertaken historic efforts since 2009 to save more than \$700 million in taxpayer funds through targeted, common-sense budget reductions. These reductions have put USDA in a better position to carry out its mission, while implementing sequester budget reductions in a fair manner that causes as little disruption as possible.

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