

# USDA Announces Nine Projects to Improve Water Quality in Kansas

USDA Rural Development State Director Patty Clark announced that nine communities received financing for improved water and wastewater systems that will benefit more than 13,000 Kansans. The agency issued the news release on December 30.

“Rural businesses and residents need access to clean water and modern waste disposal systems to be competitive economically and have a good quality of life,” U.S. Department of Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack. “This funding will help these communities grow their economies, and it will ensure that rural residents and businesses have modern, working infrastructure.”

Vilsack also noted that passage of a comprehensive Food, Farm and Jobs bill would help tackle the \$2.1 billion backlog of shovel-ready, rural water/wastewater projects, and said the bill is vital to rural communities. These are some of the reasons why Congress should pass a comprehensive bill as soon as possible, he said.

The funding for the improved water and wastewater systems is being provided through USDA Rural Development’s Water and Environmental Program, and it will have a significant impact on rural residents and businesses.

In Kansas, the nine projects that received financing are:

- **City of Atwood** received a \$3.713 million loan to rehabilitate approximately eight miles of sewer lines, reconnect 790 standard laterals, replace or rehabilitate 25 manholes and purchase a generator.
- **City of Caney** received a \$290,000 grant to connect Chautauqua County RWD #4 to the City of Caney’s clear well, so that in drought situations Chautauqua County RWD#4 can supplement the city’s water supply.
- **City of Horton** received a \$3.375 million loan and \$1.604 million grant to install 36,000 linear feet of sewer lines, repair 640 vertical feet of manholes, and repair 100 sewer line sectional points.
- **City of Leroy** received a \$2.394 million loan and \$740,000 grant to replace approximately 7,000 linear feet of sewer lines, rehabilitate approximately 21,000 linear feet of sewer lines, replace 19 manholes, and repair 400 vertical feet of existing manholes and three lift stations.
- **City of Medicine Lodge** received a \$3.732 million loan to rehabilitate a well, construct a 300,000 gallon elevated water storage tank and booster pump station, and install 30,900 linear feet of water lines.
- **City of Oberlin** received a \$5.901 million loan and \$1.317 million grant to develop three new well sites,

build a chlorination facility and ground level storage tank, install 14.6 miles of water transmission line and replace 9,200 feet of water main line.

- **City of Winona** received \$787,000 loan to install 18,600 linear feet of sewer lines, and rehabilitate 500 vertical feet of manholes, and replace 35 service connections.
- **Doniphan County RWD #6** received a \$2.575 million loan and \$1.565 grant to develop two groundwater supply wells, construct a chlorination building and 150,000 gallon steel standpipe water tower, install nearly 112 miles of water lines, and purchase automatic water monitoring equipment.
- **Sedgwick County RWD #2** received a \$1.2136 million loan to install more than 62,000 linear feet of water lines. The project will connect 163 landowners to the water district that are currently using wells or have no water service.

USDA Rural Development in Kansas provided more than \$46 million in assistance to 19 rural Kansas communities, including the projects announced today, through the Agency’s Water and Environmental Programs in federal fiscal year 2013.

“USDA offers affordable financing to improve infrastructure in small Kansas communities to ensure that rural residents have safe drinking water and a modern sewer system,” stated Clark. “With financing assistance from the federal government, these communities are improving the quality of life for their residents and investing in the future of the community.”

President Obama’s plan for rural America has brought about historic investment and resulted in stronger rural communities. Under the President’s leadership, these investments in housing, community facilities, businesses and infrastructure have empowered rural America to continue leading the way – strengthening America’s economy, small towns and rural communities. USDA’s investments in rural communities support the rural way of life that stands as the backbone of our American values.



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