



Nebraska

Rural Business Programs • Rural Energy for America Program and Rural Cooperative Development Grant

Sandhill's Cooperative Revives Food Oasis

Residents of Logan County and bordering counties were forced to make costly grocery shopping commutes after the Main Street Market & Deli in Stapleton, Nebraska closed on September 30, 2015. Fast forward to March 12, 2017 and the Main Street Market has reopened as a community-owned cooperative.

A sense of rural unity has been found through collective efforts made by a steering committee, community members, the Nebraska Cooperative Development Center (USDA Rural Cooperative Development Grant recipient of \$200,000), board of directors of Stapleton Cooperative Market & Deli and USDA Rural Development.

Shareholders of 150 now have an economic interest in the success and sustainability of the rural co-op. USDA Rural Development's

Rural Energy for America Program (REAP) contributed \$24,853 in grant dollars to provide funding for new coolers, freezers, and furnaces to help make the re-opening possible. These new units increased energy savings by 66 percent and will continue to impact the future economics of the cooperative grocery store. As part of the grant application, an audit was supplied by Custer Public Power District. Audit support was provided by Nebraska Public Power District.

Energy isn't the only thing being saved in Stapleton! In the store, you can find local shoppers saving not only time and money, but also recapturing the familiar small town convenience that holds so much significance to the aging locals and the rest of the community.



Store front of the new cooperative grocery store. Courtesy of Marcia Hora, Stapleton Enterprise.

Obligation Amount:	Rural Cooperative Development Grant \$200,000-Nebraska Cooperative Development Center Rural Energy for America Program Grant \$24,853-Stapleton Cooperative
Date of Obligation:	\$200,000 9/17/15; Stapleton Cooperative \$24,853 REAP Grant 6/23/16
Congressional District:	Representative Smith 03, District; Fischer, Sasse
Partners:	Community, UN-L Nebraska Cooperative Development Center, Custer Public Power District and Nebraska Public Power District
Demographics:	Stapleton, Logan County and surrounding area
Impact:	Grocery store was able to use two Rural Development programs to reopen local grocery store with more energy efficient equipment and as a cooperative in rural Nebraska.
