

# Newsletter

**U.S. Department of Agriculture**  
Rural Development  
601 Business Loop 70 West  
Parkade Center, Suite 235  
Columbia, MO 65203  
[www.rd.usda.gov/mo](http://www.rd.usda.gov/mo)

## The Director's Rural Infrastructure News

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We are in the throes of summer—like most rural Missourians, my family is enjoying fresh produce from our garden, and I'm struggling to keep my mind on anything other than football. Pretty soon, the transition of kids heading back to school will intersect with gatherings for local sports games, fairs, and festivals. It's the time we delve feet first back into our sense of community.

Over the last year, the push to improve infrastructure, create jobs, and strengthen public safety has been a common bond within Missouri's rural communities. Missouri USDA Rural Development has responded in kind with grants, direct financial support, and targeted loans to help those communities working so hard to help themselves. Whether it's rural microentrepreneur assistance in St. Francois or helping a youth baseball complex lower their long-term energy costs in Taney County – when it comes to improving rural communities, we are in for a penny, in for a pound.

As many small towns and counties have discovered, partnerships built between local stakeholders and Missouri USDA Rural Development result in sustainable changes that improve and strengthen our neighborhoods, communities, and rural way of life.

To learn more about investment resources for rural areas, visit [www.rd.usda.gov](http://www.rd.usda.gov) or contact the nearest [Missouri USDA Rural Development office](#).

Please reach out to us at [RDMissouri@usda.gov](mailto:RDMissouri@usda.gov), or calling us at (573) 876-0976 to get more information on any of USDA Rural Development's programs.

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