



STAKEHOLDER ANNOUNCEMENT

USDA Certifies Open Prairie Rural Opportunities Fund as Newest Rural Business Investment Company

WASHINGTON, Jan. 25, 2018 – Assistant to the Secretary for Rural Development Anne Hazlett today announced the certification of a new Rural Business Investment Company (RBIC), the Open Prairie Rural Opportunities Fund, L.P., under USDA’s [Rural Business Investment Program \(RBIP\)](#).

Open Prairie is the third non-leveraged fund to be certified under RBIP. The program provides licenses to private capital funds to assist in meeting the capital needs in rural areas.

The Open Prairie Rural Opportunities Fund will invest in companies with high-growth potential in the food and agribusiness sectors, including those in crop protection, agricultural production and processing, precision agriculture, and information and data management. Fund managers expect to begin investing up to \$100 million in private equity into rural America during the first half of 2018.

Open Prairie, founded in 1997, is based in Effingham, Ill. It has managed fund products ranging from technology-based venture capital to farmland portfolios. It has consistently focused on facilitating capital accessibility in underserved markets.

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