

Arkansas



The potential to grow and make innovative products in rural America is limitless. Since 2009, the Obama Administration has made targeted investments to help rural businesses grow. Through the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s projects in affordable housing, energy efficiency, roads and bridges, and internet access, coupled with loans and grants for rural businesses, the Administration has helped to attract and retain a talented rural labor force, improve connectivity and access to information, move products to market, and make rural communities competitive—**ultimately supporting strong local economies and expanded opportunity for rural Arkansans.**

SPOTLIGHT ON LOCAL

Where farmers’ markets are developed, their impact on local communities can be significant. In Newport, Arkansas, a grant from USDA helped the community replace a small farmers market under temporary canopies with a large pavilion structure in a high-traffic area. The number of vendors at the market increased from 8 to 20, and some vendors have seen sales increases of as much as 50 percent.

Local food sales were valued at \$11.7 billion in 2014. In Arkansas, USDA has invested in 577 local food projects, helping to develop food hubs, small-scale processing, farmers markets and other market opportunities in local food.



SUPPORT FOR RURAL BUSINESSES

USDA has made investments to help **178 rural businesses in Arkansas thrive and grow.**

USDA investments in everything from advanced biofuels manufacturing facilities to food hubs help businesses, many of them small, capitalize on emerging markets for rural-made products. **In rural America, small businesses support one in three jobs.**



RENEWING RURAL MANUFACTURING

The rural economy includes more than products that come from farms. **Rural manufacturing supports 75,614 jobs in Arkansas.** USDA has invested

\$16 million to help rural manufacturers in **Arkansas** increase production and capacity.



GROWING EXPORTS

In 2013, exports of farm and ranch products alone contributed **\$4 billion to Arkansas’** economy.

The President’s Made In Rural America initiative helps rural businesses capitalize on demand for American-made products and identify ways they can participate in global markets.



HOUSING

Access to safe, affordable housing is critical to maintaining the rural labor force. USDA has helped **27,123 Arkansas families** purchase or repair homes.



CONNECTIVITY

USDA has invested **\$279.8 million** in telecommunications projects serving **rural Arkansans**, which has helped

to expand access to state-of-the-art health care, educational, and cultural resources and helps rural businesses compete in the global economy.



WATER

USDA has invested **\$261.7 million** to support efficient water supply, treatment and storage facilities, and

wastewater treatment systems. That investment has **improved the health of thousands of rural Arkansans** who now have access to clean water and reliable sanitation.