



# NEWS RELEASE

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## **GLICKMAN ANNOUNCES \$45 MILLION EFFORT TO FURTHER BOOST ECONOMY OF MISSISSIPPI DELTA REGION**

WASHINGTON, May 10, 2000 -- Agriculture Secretary Dan Glickman today announced \$45 million in USDA loans and grants to help improve living standards and create jobs in the Mississippi Delta region.

“Thanks to an incredibly strong national economy and well targeted investments such as these, the economic health of the Delta is improving,” Glickman said in remarks to a conference on the Delta hosted by President Clinton. “The unemployment rate in the Delta has declined significantly from 7.5 percent in 1993 to 4.2 percent in 1999. Unfortunately, in some counties, the unemployment rate is far higher, and there is a critical need for safe drinking water, wastewater disposal, and essential community facilities.”

The USDA investments announced today include \$30.3 million for clean drinking water and safe wastewater disposal systems, \$14.5 million for rural businesses, \$470,000 for community facilities, and \$228,000 for self-help housing developments, where low-income people become homeowners by providing most of the labor needed to build their homes.

Among the specific projects announced today are:

- C A \$3 million business loan for the Bethel Grain Co., in Franklin County, Ill., to make building modifications and purchase equipment needed to manufacture value-added corn products, including those used in cereals and corn meal for export markets. This loan will help the company create or save 63 jobs in a high-unemployment part of the state and will help boost corn prices for corn growers in the area.
- C A \$1.56 million loan/grant combination to help expand a water treatment plant in Lauderdale County, Tenn., which will provide a safe, dependable drinking water supply for 3,600 residents.
- A \$420,000 business loan to the Arkansas Rural Water Association to construct a training facility in Lonoke, Ark., where water technicians from small, rural water districts can be trained.

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- C A \$31,000 grant to make repairs and improvements at a rural day care center in Caldwell County, Ky., which provides service to a community of 1,500 people.
  
- C A \$50,000 business grant to Alcorn State University in Mississippi to add a refrigeration system at a farm and craft market in Natchez, benefitting vegetable growers and crafts people in a five-county area.

Over the past seven years, USDA has provided nearly \$3.5 billion in rural development financial assistance to the Delta region. Following is a list of the loans and grants awarded today by USDA.

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## USDA MISSISSIPPI DELTA PROJECT ANNOUNCEMENTS

Water/Wastewater	State		Loan or Grant	Amount
White County	Ark.		loan	\$1,593,400.00
			grant	\$876,600.00
Fulton County	Ark.	loan	\$1,830,070.00	
			grant	\$2,272,930.00
Washington County	Mo.		loan	\$275,000.00
			grant	\$283,000.00
City of Morton's Gap	Ky.		loan	\$138,000.00
			grant	\$368,000.00
Avoyelles County	La.		loan	\$6,916,000.00
Mississippi County	Mo.		loan	\$442,700.00
Alexander & Pulaski Counties	Ill.		loan	\$627,000.00
			grant	\$1,246,300.00
Leake County	Miss.		loan	\$142,500.00
			grant	\$427,500.00
Fayette County	Ill.		loan	\$193,000.00
Lauderdale County	Tenn.		loan	\$782,500.00
			grant	\$782,500.00
Somerville	Tenn.		loan	\$2,200,000.00
			grant	\$1,800,000.00
Butler County	Mo.		loan	\$300,000.00
			grant	\$200,000.00
Ozark County	Mo.		loan	\$150,000.00
			grant	\$686,000.00
Butler County	Mo.		loan	\$2,250,000.00
			grant	\$1,499,000.00
Ripley County	Mo.	loan	\$460,000.00	
			grant	\$306,000.00
Ripley County	Mo.	grant	\$66,800.00	
Panola County	Miss.	loan	\$180,000.00	
Panola County	Miss.	loan	\$292,000.00	
			grant	\$218,000.00
Prentiss County	Miss.		loan	\$500,000.00
<b>TOTAL</b>				<b>\$30,304,800.00</b>
<b>Community Facility Projects</b>				
Franklin County	Ill.		grant	\$10,000.00
Avoyelles County	La.		grant	\$35,000.00
St. Landry County	La.		grant	\$22,500.00
Evangeline County	La.		loan	\$12,500.00
			grant	\$22,500.00
West Carroll County	La.		loan	\$96,630.00

			grant	\$41,550.00
White County	Ill.		loan	\$124,400.00

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City of Tehula	Miss.		grant	\$40,500.00
Holmes County	Miss.		grant	\$26,500.00
<b>TOTAL</b>				<b>\$432,080.00</b>

**Business Assistance**

Haywood County	Tenn.		grant	\$49,000.00
Ark. Rural Water Asc.	Ark.		loan	\$420,000.00
Bokay	Ark.		loan	\$1,200,000.00
Pits	Ark.		loan	\$1,407,770.00
Advanced Coatings	Ark.		loan	\$1,990,000.00
Lewis & Sons	Ark.		loan	\$425,000.00
Earle Industries	Ark.		loan	\$1,250,000.00
Haywood County	Tenn.		grant	\$64,800.00
Pulaski County	Ill.		grant	\$150,000.00
Holmes County	Miss.		grant	\$72,500.00
Claiborne County	Miss.		grant	\$50,000.00
Saline County	Ill.		grant	\$50,000.00
Alcorn State Univ.	Miss.		grant	\$50,000.00
Bethel Grain Co.	Ill.		loan	\$3,000,000.00
Under The Magnolia Day Care	Ky.		grant	\$31,000.00
City of Salem	Mo.		grant	\$96,000.00
Hopkinsville Elevator	Ky.		grant	\$95,000.00
Natchez Eola LLC	Miss./La.		loan	\$4,200,000.00
<b>TOTAL</b>				<b>\$14,631,070.00</b>

**Self-Help Housing Technical Assistance**

Lee County	Ark.		grant	\$224,320.00
Ashley Drew	Ark.		grant	\$4,500.00
<b>TOTAL</b>				<b>\$228,820.00</b>

**GRAND TOTAL** **\$45,566,770.00**