

## **FEATURE – USDA BREAKS GROUND FOR THE PEOPLE’S GARDEN**

INTRO: Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack "broke pavement" on the inaugural The People's Garden during a ceremony on the grounds of U.S. Department of Agriculture commemorating the 200th birthday of Abraham Lincoln. The USDA’s Bob Ellison has more. (1:16)

AGRICULTURE SECRETARY TOM VILSACK JACKHAMMERED THE BEGINNINGS OF THE PEOPLE’S GARDEN OUTSIDE THE U-S DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE HEADQUARTERS. THE GARDEN WILL REPLACE A STRETCH OF ASPHALT TO SYMBOLIZE HELPING THE ENVIRONMENT.

Tom Vilsack, Agriculture Secretary: It will provide better storm water management by reducing asphalt surfaces. A clear benefit to the Chesapeake Bay watershed and it will sequester greenhouse gases. With this garden we’ll also demonstrate conservation practices for landowners.

THE PEOPLE’S GARDEN WILL ADD SIX HUNDRED TWELVE SQUARE FEET TO AN EXISTING GARDEN.

Vilsack: We will first of all grow an assortment of fruits and vegetables to symbolize U-S-D-A’s commitment to provide healthy diets for our children and to fight childhood obesity. The garden will also serve our community. We’ll be donating the produce grown here to local food banks.

VILSACK SAID ALL U-S-D-A FACILITIES WILL BE ASKED TO INSTALL COMMUNITY GARDENS.

Vilsack: Now this could just be a small scale window box, or a rooftop garden or rain catchments.

THE GROUNDBREAKING TOOK PLACE ON ABRAHAM LINCOLN’S TWO HUNDREDTH BIRTHDAY TO COMMEMORATE HIS FOUNDING OF U-S-D-A IN EIGHTEEN SIXTY TWO. IN WASHINGTON, FOR THE U-S DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, I’M BOB ELLISON.