

Ohio



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 Ohioans.**

SPOTLIGHT ON LOCAL

Ohio State University received a grant through the Beginning Farmer and Rancher Development Program to train women, minorities, refugees and limited-resource adults with disabilities in a region affected by high rates of unemployment and chronic disease. The program helped launch seven new local farm enterprises and led to new jobs for 26 socially disadvantaged individuals.

Local food sales were valued at \$11.7 billion in 2014. In Ohio, USDA has invested in 718 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 **366 rural businesses in Ohio 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 201,112 jobs in Ohio. USDA has invested **\$51.7 million** to help rural manufacturers in **Ohio** increase production and capacity.



GROWING EXPORTS

In 2013, exports of farm and ranch products alone contributed **\$4.4 billion** to **Ohio’s** 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 **30,011 Ohio families** purchase or repair homes.



CONNECTIVITY

USDA has invested **\$46 million** in telecommunications projects serving **rural Ohioans**, 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 **\$276.8 million** to support efficient water supply, treatment and storage facilities, and

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