

West Virginia



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 West Virginians.**

SPOTLIGHT ON LOCAL

With funding through a Rural Business Enterprise Grant, Unlimited Future, Inc. in Huntington, West Virginia, is increasing self employment and annual farm income for local farmers by building high tunnel systems.

Local food sales were valued at \$11.7 billion in 2014. In West Virginia, USDA has invested in 1,022 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 **103 rural businesses in West Virginia 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 18,657**

jobs in West Virginia. USDA has invested **\$18.9 million** to help rural manufacturers in **West Virginia** increase production and capacity.



GROWING EXPORTS

In 2013, exports of farm and ranch products alone contributed **\$166.3 million** to **West Virginia’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 **12,402 West Virginia families** purchase or repair homes.



CONNECTIVITY

USDA has invested **\$48.3 million** in telecommunications projects serving **rural West Virginians**, which has

helped Broadband service helps 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 **\$323.4 million** to support efficient water supply, treatment and storage facilities, and

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