



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF
AGRICULTURE

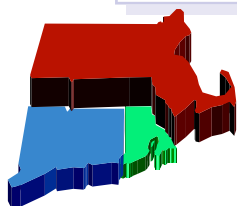
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USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT FISCAL YEAR 2001 ANNUAL REPORT



FOCUS ON SOUTHERN NEW ENGLAND



David H. Tuttle,
State Director (MA/CT/RI)

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Who We Are

USDA Rural Development was originally started in 1935 as the Resettlement Administration, then was renamed the Farm Security Administration in 1937 and eventually the Farmers Home Administration (FmHA) in 1947.

In 1994, the United States Department of Agriculture was reorganized with the FmHA being consolidated with the Rural Electrification Administration, Agricultural Cooperative Service and the Alternative Agricultural Research and Commercialization Center under the umbrella of Rural Development. Rural Development programs are administered through three services: the Rural Utilities Service (RUS), the Rural Housing Service (RHS) and the Rural Business-Cooperative Service (RBS).

RURAL DEVELOPMENT'S VISION:

“Partners in helping the people of rural America develop sustainable communities.”

RURAL DEVELOPMENT'S MISSION:

“To enhance the ability of rural communities to develop, to grow and to improve their quality of life by targeting financial and technical resources in the areas of greatest need through activities of the greatest potential.”

OFFICE INFORMATION AND ORGANIZATION:

The Massachusetts State Office located in Amherst, Massachusetts administers USDA Rural Development programs for the Southern New England region: Massachusetts, Connecticut and Rhode Island. Field offices are located strategically throughout the region with each site committed to serving those in search of information and assistance with Rural Development programs and initiatives. The last page of this annual report will provide you with office locations and points of contact.

RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN SOUTHERN NEW ENGLAND **Massachusetts, Connecticut and Rhode Island**

WHAT WE DO....

USDA Rural Development in Southern New England offers a wealth of services and programs to rural communities. It is our mission to ensure rural citizens participate fully in the American and global economy.

In thousands of communities across the nation, rural people are struggling to pump new life into economies locked into a downward spiral of job losses, migration, diminishing services and declining or stagnant living standards. To reverse this trend, Rural Development is forging new partnerships with rural communities, funding projects that bring housing, community facilities, utilities and other services to rural areas. USDA also provides technical assistance and financial backing for rural businesses and cooperatives to create quality jobs in rural areas.



Secretary Ann M. Veneman

Our country stands united as we report on a unique and challenging year for the Department of Agriculture. In the wake of the tragedies of September 11th, we have worked to ensure the protection of our food supply, employees, customers, facilities and programs. As President Bush has said, “We will not waver; we will not tire; we will not falter; and we will not fail. Peace and freedom will prevail.”

During this past year, we faced many challenges, but many opportunities as well. As our new Administration has taken hold, USDA’s Rural Development undertook many efforts to assist and strengthen our rural communities. These efforts included: 950 communities approved for \$1.4 billion in loan and grant funds to establish or improve drinking water or waste disposal systems for more than a million rural residents; 43,000 families received loans to purchase a home, allowing them to realize their dream of owning their own home and contributing to an all time high in our nation’s homeownership rate; and nearly \$15 million in grant funds were provided to distance learning projects encompassing over 590 educational institutions, and \$11.5 million for 41 telemedicine projects involving nearly 236 medical facilities, bringing greater access for rural residents to much needed educational and medical services.

Over the years, we have made great strides to better serve our customers. In September, we unveiled a new report, “Food and Agricultural Policy: Taking Stock for the New Century.” This study focuses on the changing role of agriculture and rural development and how we can work together to provide new opportunities and greater economic growth for this nation’s farmers, ranchers and rural communities. I encourage you to review this report from USDA’s website at www.usda.gov.

Residents in Massachusetts, Connecticut, Rhode Island and from all across this nation are what truly makes America great. We can continue to build on our successes in strengthening our rural communities. And, our Rural Development employees stand ready to assist in any way they can.



State Director David Tuttle

*State Director Tuttle with
Massachusetts Governor Jane Swift.*

USDA Rural Development in Southern New England has had another successful year and I am proud to announce that our efforts have resulted in over \$110 Million in funding being awarded to rural communities, businesses and families throughout Massachusetts, Connecticut and Rhode Island in Fiscal Year 2001.

By working as a team, each of us in the Southern New England jurisdiction have played a vital role in helping improve the quality of life for the residents of rural Massachusetts, Connecticut and Rhode Island. While I am proud to report our fiscal successes, it has been said that a picture is worth a thousand words. Throughout our annual report, we have included pictures of the numerous projects that we have played a roll in this past year.

Each program that the Southern New England offices administer, and each project that is funded, brings my staff and me closer to the objective of our agencies' mission—to help improve the lives of the residents of rural America and to ensure that every rural citizen has the opportunity to fully participate in the global economy.

Therefore it is my privilege to present to you, the following report which provides a glimpse at the vital and valuable programs that USDA Rural Development and its staff has to offer.

*-David H. Tuttle, State Director
(Massachusetts/Connecticut/Rhode Island)*



The Police in Rochester, MA built a brand new base of operations with help from USDA Rural Development.



Construction begins on a new 12-unit affordable rental housing development in Wellfleet, MA.



State Director Tuttle celebrates Earth Day with local children.



Pam Hunt receives an award for her service as a manager of a USDA Rural Development Multi-family housing development.

USDA Rural Development programs at a glance...



Rural Development funds helped open this multi-family housing complex in Woodbury, Connecticut.



The Lanesborough Village, Massachusetts Fire & Water District received \$225,000 in USDA funds to replace a 60-year-old failing water main.



The Rochester, Massachusetts Police Station received Community Facility Program funds in order to build a brand new, state of the art, Police and emergency communications building.



Students at Dean Technical High School in Holyoke, Massachusetts are working on the development of a 'hybrid alternative energy trailer' which will prepare them for work in the field of 'green energy'. The program is funded by the Cooperative Development Institute which received a \$200,000 grant from Rural Development.

► **Housing Programs**...The acquisition of safe and sanitary housing through purchase or construction is the major emphasis of our housing programs. Assistance is available to residents of rural communities to purchase or build a single-family home, repair an existing home, and for the development of affordable rental housing. Assistance comes in the form of, Direct and Guaranteed loans for home ownership; loans and grants for home improvement and repairs; Direct and Guaranteed loans for rural rental housing projects, grants to non-profit organizations to administer housing repair programs (HPG 533), and Self-Help Technical Assistance programs.

► **Water & Waste Programs**...This type of assistance is available to rural towns and communities not larger than 10,000 inhabitants (2000 Census) to develop public water and wastewater systems, telecommunications and other utility projects. This program is divided into three types of assistance: Water & Wastewater and Solid Waste Direct Loans which have fixed interest rates that may be as low as 4.5% with terms of up to 40 years; Water & Wastewater and Solid Waste Grants which may total 45% to 75% of the eligible project costs; and Solid Waste Management Grants which provide technical assistance and training to public and private, non-profit associations for the purpose of reducing or eliminating pollution of water resources and for the improvement and planning of solid waste facilities.

► **Community Facility Programs**...This type of assistance is available to rural towns and communities not larger than 20,000 inhabitants. Community Facilities are those essential facilities that are necessary for orderly community development. Examples fall under the categories of Health Care (clinics, rehabilitation centers, hospitals); Public Safety (police, fire and rescue communications, vehicles, stations and equipment); Public Services (child care, day care, airports, libraries, town halls, schools); and, Telecommunications (medical and educational). The Community Facility Program funds are obligated as direct loans, guaranteed loans or grants.

USDA Rural Development programs at a glance...



► **Business Development Programs**...Business & Industry Loan Guarantees, Rural Business Enterprise Grants, Rural Business Opportunity Grants and Intermediary Relending Program Loans are made to improve, develop or finance business, industry and employment and improve the economic and environmental climate in rural communities. The objective of the B&I Guaranteed Loan Program is achieved through bolstering the existing private credit structure with guarantees on quality loans that will provide lasting community benefits. This type of assistance is available only to businesses located in rural areas; those areas being outside the boundary of a town or city with a population of 50,000 or more or its immediate urbanizing surroundings. The funds may be used for real estate purchase or improvement, equipment or capital.



► **Cooperative Development Programs**...The Cooperative Services Program of the Rural Business Service helps residents form new cooperative businesses and improve the operations of existing cooperatives. To accomplish this, cooperative programs provide technical assistance, conduct cooperative related research, and produce information products to promote public understanding of cooperatives.



Fiscal Year 2001 Figures

In FY 2001 Massachusetts, Connecticut and Rhode Island received **Over \$110 Million** in funding from USDA Rural Development.



Community Facilities, Water & Waste, and Business & Industry Programs:



State	Community Facility Loans	Community Facility Grants	Water & Waste Loans	Water & Waste Grants	Business & Industry Guaranteed Loans	Co-op / RBE Grants	RBO Grants	TOTAL
MASS.	\$7,519,000	\$97,003	\$8,102,660	\$3,892,050	\$27,275,310	\$934,000	\$50,000	\$47,870,023
CONN.	\$1,135,000	\$65,032	\$1,217,730	\$2,958,000	\$5,125,000	\$191,000	\$50,000	\$10,741,762
R.I.	\$1,682,600	\$2,616	\$1,284,500	\$1,663,500	\$4,925,000	-	\$50,000	\$9,608,216



The Franklin County Community Development Corporation received a \$121,900 RBEG to open a commercial kitchen.



The State of Connecticut's Deputy Commissioner of Agriculture receives a "big check" for \$100,000 from State Director Tuttle.



The Albion Fire Department in Albion, RI received a \$320,000 low-interest loan for a new fire truck through the USDA.



The Rutland Public Library was funded with a \$2.9 million low interest loan from Rural Development.

Fiscal Year 2001 Figures



Housing Programs:



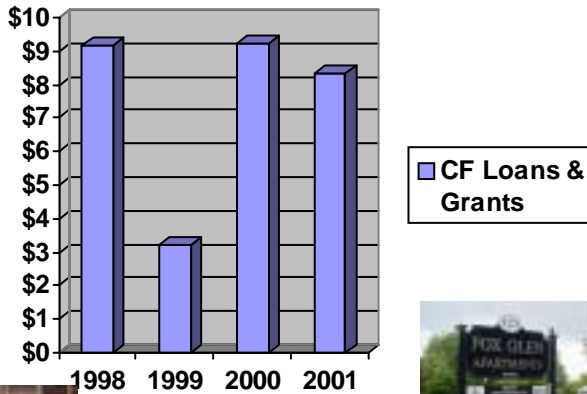
State	502 Direct Loans	502 Guaranteed Loans	504 Grants	504 Loans	Housing Preservation Grants/SHTA	515 Rural Rental Housing Loans	TOTAL
MASS.	\$9,157,100	\$7,400,900	\$336,300	\$106,190	\$52,339	\$477,000	\$17,529,829
CONN.	\$5,031,270	\$15,970,770	\$87,920	\$22,060	-	\$1,406,000	\$22,518,020
R.I.	\$1,074,370	\$671,650	\$71,620	\$47,200	\$50,000	-	\$1,914,840



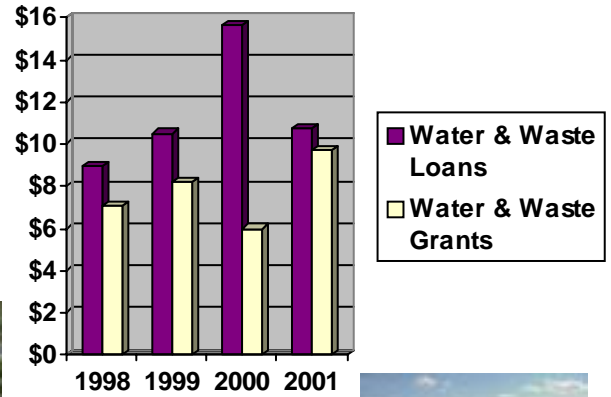
Community Facilities:

Water & Waste:

Millions



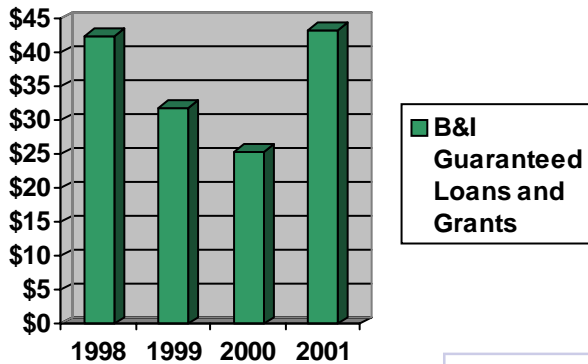
Millions



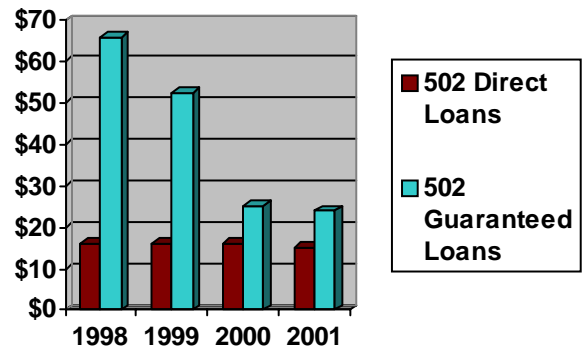
Business & Industry:

Housing:

Millions

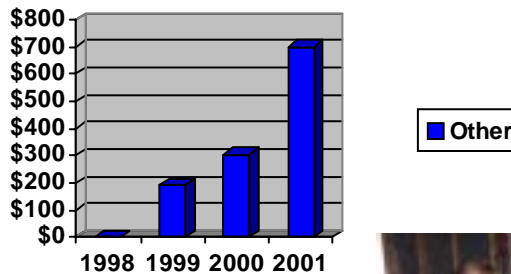


Millions



Other:

Thousands





State Director David Tuttle presents the CEO of Cooperative Development Institute with a \$200,000 grant check at Dean Technical High School.



The Beaman Memorial Library in West Boylston, Massachusetts was funded through the USDA Rural Development Community Facilities Program.

In Fiscal Year 2001, USDA Rural Development (MA/CT/RI) helped rural communities create or maintain 1,013 jobs; funded the development or repair of rural water and waste water systems which supported 37,463 users; provided financial assistance for essential community facilities which served 220,935 rural residents and funded the purchase or repair of 526 homes.



(from left) Connecticut Deputy Commissioner of Agriculture Bruce Greczyk, National Weather Service Chief Meteorologist Bob Thompson, Connecticut Governor John Rowland, Rural Development Manager Johan Strandson and USDA Rural Development Assistant State Director Bill Gouzounis met at the governor's office to discuss the State's preparedness for severe weather.



Stafford Point in Tiverton, Rhode Island is a 24-unit elderly housing complex that received funding through the Rural Housing Service.

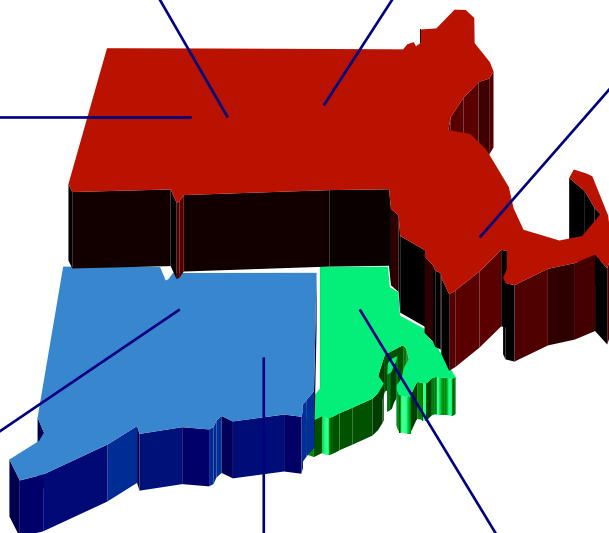
Rural Development Offices in Southern New England

Amherst State Office
 State Director: David H. Tuttle
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 Amherst, MA 01002
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 Email: david.tuttle@ma.usda.gov
 On the web: www.rurdev.usda.gov/ma
 The state office administers activity in the
 three state jurisdiction.

Holden Area Office
 Rural Development Manager-Lyndon Nichols
 52 Boyden Road
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 (508) 829-4477 x. 4
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 lnichols@rurdev.usda.gov
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