

# New rules to fund broadband services in unserved rural areas

Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack announced new rules to better target Community Connect broadband grants to areas where they are needed the most. The United States Department of Agriculture remains focused on carrying out its mission, despite a time of significant budget uncertainty. The recent announcement is one part of the Department's efforts to strengthen the rural economy.

"These rules give communities better access to the benefits that broadband service provides," Vilsack said. "The Obama Administration is working to ensure that rural residents share in the opportunities provided by modern Internet service."

United States Department of Agriculture Rural Development's Community Connect Grant program serves rural communities where broadband service is least likely to be available, but where it can make a tremendous difference in the quality of life for citizens.

The changes:

- Simplify the application process by requiring a single project summary and map.

- Allow grant applicants to use a United States Department of Agriculture web-based mapping tool to define their proposed service area. The old rules did not accommodate some of the most

rural communities, which often are not Census-designated places or were not recognized by a commercial atlas.

- Give grant applicants more flexibility on the types of resources, in-kind services and monetary contributions that can be used to meet the 15 percent matching fund requirement.

- Allow United States Department of Agriculture to consider giving funding priority to projects in:

- persistent poverty counties;
- communities experiencing population declines;
- the most rural areas.

United States Department of Agriculture's Rural Utilities Service plans to publish information on Community Connect funding opportunities, including application deadlines and the amount of assistance available, in the Federal Register soon.

In addition to Community Connect grants, United States Department of Agriculture Rural Development provides loans and loan guarantees to help finance the construction of rural broadband networks.

Since its inception, the Community Connect program has funded 229 projects with United States Department of Agriculture investments of \$122 million. In 2012, United States Department of Agriculture assistance led to improved broadband service na-

tionwide for nearly 65,000 rural households, businesses, and community institutions - such as libraries, schools and first responders. Information about the rules is available at: [www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2013-05-03/pdf/2013-10502.pdf](http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2013-05-03/pdf/2013-10502.pdf).

United States Department of Agriculture, through its Rural Development mission area, has a portfolio of programs designed to improve the economic stability of rural communities, businesses, residents, farmers and ranchers and improve the quality of life in rural America.

United States Department of Agriculture has made a concerted effort to deliver results for the American people, even as United States Department of Agriculture implements sequestration - the across-the-board budget reductions mandated under terms of the Budget Control Act. United States Department of Agriculture has already undertaken historic efforts since 2009 to save more than \$828 million in taxpayer funds through targeted, common-sense budget reductions. These reductions have put United States Department of Agriculture in a better position to carry out its mission, while implementing sequester budget reductions in a fair manner that causes as little disruption as possible.

## Member of Distinction selected

Dr. Anthony "Tony" Gabel has become the first William and Anita Lusk Faculty Member of Distinction at Fort Hays State University.

The Lusk Faculty Member of Distinction was created to provide recognition of and support for an outstanding faculty member in FHSU's College of Business and Entrepreneurship.

Dr. Mark Bannister, dean, said the award was intended to build the quality of the college's faculty expertise and its research portfolio.

"It provides resources to al-

low funding of a mixture of summer supplemental salary for research and additional operating support for research assistants, travel or equipment and is awarded through an annual competitive application process," Bannister said. "Dr. Gabel will use his funding award to develop qualitative case studies from the Chinese business and legal environment."

Gabel said he was excited and humbled to have been selected as the first Lusk Faculty Member of Distinction.

"I plan to use the opportunity

afforded by the award to further my research in the use of law for strategic competitive advantage in foreign jurisdictions," Gabel said. "This award permits my colleague and co-author Dr. Justin Evan and me to travel to China to interview industry leaders about their use of law in their decision-making process. We will be spending nearly two and one-half weeks in Shanghai, Urumqi and Beijing conducting on-the-ground interviews.

"I sincerely thank the Lusk family for their generosity in establishing this award."

## Fair

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9:30 - 10:30 a.m., Goats and Lambs 10:30 - 11:30 a.m.). No animals are to be stalled until given a health check approval. 4-H and Open Class Poultry and Rabbits will be entered by Tuesday at noon. Open Class Textiles, Handicrafts, and Culinary can be entered from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and will be judged at 1 p.m. on Tuesday. Don't forget to check out the Culinary Canned Goods. Judging of Coverlets, Home Sewing, and Consultation Judging of Open Class Quilts will be Tuesday afternoon starting at 1:30 p.m. 4-H Entomology, Electric, Geology & Small Engines will be entered and judged at 1:30 p.m. on Tuesday. Also on Tuesday evening the 23rd, there will be Youth Team Penning, sponsored by Norton Saddle Club, after the Swine Show. Special programs along with the 4-H Foods Sale include Local Talent on Tuesday evening sponsored by the Ministerial Alliance. A free will offering will be taken.

4-H Fiber Arts includes articles such as crochet, knitting, needle arts, quilting, macramé and weaving. These will be entered Tuesday and judged 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. The 4-H Crafts and other Skill Arts will be entered and judged Tuesday 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

The Exotic Animal educational exhibit and petting zoo is set for Wednesday, July 24th. Pre-entries are needed by July 18th for this exhibition. We encourage exotic animals for the public. Open Class and 4-H Horticulture and Flowers are entered

on Wednesday morning from 8 - 10 a.m.

Wednesday evening will be the Ranch Rodeo, sponsored by Norton County Horse Council, Porkburger Special - co-sponsored by 4-H Council and Husky Hogs, a free Watermelon Feed - sponsored by Jamboree Foods; Political Candidates Meet & Greet sponsored by Norton County Republican Central Committee and Norton County Farm Bureau, and Three Jacks performance.

Thursday morning the Norton Fair Association will hold the 4-H and FFA Challenge of Champions which offers a \$250.00 scholarship award sponsored by Kowpoke Supply. There will also be Crops Judging and Entomology Judging. The Round Robin Champion Showmanship and 4-H & FFA Livestock Sale and the Jackpot Team Roping Event, sponsored by Norton Horse Council, will also be on Thursday.

Friday evening's schedule has on tap the youth Pedal Power Pull and Celebrity Pull, sponsored by Landmark Implement of Phillipsburg. In addition, there will be Mutton Busting and A Norton Idol@, both sponsored by area businesses and coordinated by Norton County Farm Bureau, and on Saturday night, July 27th car races sponsored by NEPRA.

Look again this year for the special School Children Division. All youth up to 17 years of age can enter exhibits in foods, textiles and handicrafts, quilts, afghans, flowers, plants, collections, sewing, woodworking,

photography, and gardening, or models. The Division Departments are highlighted in Bold in this year's fair book.

Each night (Tuesday-Saturday) the Home Owned Carnival will be in full swing from 6:30 - 11:30 p.m. with a special kiddie armband night (1 ticket rides) on Friday and regular arm band night on Saturday. There will be concessions booths from the 4-H Food Stand, Norton County Horse Council, American Legion, and amusement groups. The carnival rides and games are all a volunteer service and anyone wishing to offer assistance may contact a member of the Norton County Community Service Association at 877-5452.

The 2013 Norton County Fair offers something for everyone. Check out the possibilities and guidelines for each department and plan to participate. Fair booklets have been distributed to various businesses in the county and also are available at the Norton Twin Creeks Extension Office (107 S. State, downtown Norton). The 2013 Fair Board President is Garrett Beydler, Vice President is Kevin Esslinger. The officers of the Norton County Community Service Association are: President, Curtis Eveleigh; Vice-President, Calvin Wright; Secretary, Deanna Herredsburg and Treasurer, Deb Eveleigh.

The Norton County Fair Association and Community Service Association reminds fair goers that pets are not allowed on the fairgrounds unless for disability or special service needs.

## Road, one; truck zero...



A sixteen-year-old unlicensed driver was involved in a one-car crash on Tuesday, The minor, who is from Norton, was driving a blue 2006 Chevrolet Silverado east bound on Road N, when he lost control going around a curve and entered the south ditch and rolled once. The driver refused medical treatment and the vehicle, owned by Kyle Hahn of Norton, sustained over \$1,000 in damage.

-Telegram photo by Dana Paxton

For help with your advertising needs please give Dana a call 877-3361  
email: dpaxton@nwkansas.com

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See how we've further advanced the quality of care for our region during the

## Open House of the Completed Phase 2B of Our Facility Master Plan

Friday, July 19 | 2:00 to 4:00 p.m.

The science of healing continually changes and Community Hospital is staying right in step. See for yourself by taking a tour of the medical service areas included in the recently completed Phase 2B of our Facility Master Plan.

You'll tour Community Hospital's new Infusion Center where six more chemotherapy bays have been added for space and comfort. Patients needing shots or lab work are also served in this relaxing area. You'll also tour:

- Our expanded imaging center
- Respiratory service area
- Sleep Center
- Emergency department
- Chapel

Hospital personnel are looking forward to being your guides and refreshments will be served.



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