

## **Business owners, residents, community leaders invited to share ideas on creating jobs**

USDA Rural Development State Director Maxine Moul announced that the Nebraska state office will hold a forum on job creation, economic growth and small business credit on Friday, Jan. 8.

The forum will be from 10 a.m. to noon CST at eight locations throughout Nebraska via video conferencing. The Nebraska event follows the Forum on Jobs and Economic Growth that President Obama hosted at the White House on Dec. 3.

“This forum will provide an opportunity for residents, business owners and community leaders across the state to share ideas on creating jobs and economic opportunities,” Moul said.

“Government can help lay the groundwork for economic growth, but the best ideas for continued growth and job creation often come from local and community leaders. I look forward to hearing these ideas and sharing them with our national leaders,” she said.

The forum will include business owners, residents, state and local officials, union members, non-profit organizations, community leaders, economists and other interested parties. Participants will discuss steps that can be taken to grow the economy and put Americans back to work.

The primary focus will be on ideas to accelerate job growth in rural America. Some of the topics to be discussed are:

- Exploring ways to rejuvenate and promote local businesses;
- Creating jobs by rebuilding America’s infrastructure;
- Creating new opportunities from existing ones, such as with value-added agricultural products;
- Supporting job growth among small businesses; and
- Preparing workers for 21st century jobs.

The job forum will be held via video conference at the following Nebraska locations:

Scottsbluff—Panhandle Research and Extension Center- 4502 Ave. I, Facilitators: Ingrid Battershell and Marla Marx.

North Platte—Mid-Plains Community College-McDonald Belton Campus, Rm. 141, Facilitators: Natalie Furrow and Tom Gorman

McCook-Mid-Plains Community College-1205 E. 3rd St., McMillen Hall, Rm. 208, Facilitator: Lory Cappel.

Kearney—Kearney Public Library-2020 1st Ave., Facilitators: Paul Bartlett and Brenda Darnell.

Ainsworth-Ainsworth Public Library—5th & Main, Facilitator: Mary Gambill.

Norfolk—Northeast Community College Lifelong Learning Ctr.-801 East Benjamin Ave. Facilitators: Dale Wemhoff and Joe Ferguson.

Lincoln—NET-1800 N. 33rd St., Facilitators: Roger Meeks and Vicki Schurman.

Omaha—Omaha State Office Bldg-1313 Farnam, Rm. 207, Facilitators: Cliff Mosteller and Jenny Nelson.

Attendees should RSVP to the site they will attend and direct any questions about the event to: Vicki Schurman, 402-437-5563, [vicki.schurman@ne.usda.gov](mailto:vicki.schurman@ne.usda.gov).