

7/21/2003 Moran Announces Assistance for Environmental and Conservation Program in North Central Kan

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WASHINGTON, D.C. - Congressman Jerry Moran today announced that Kansas will receive conservation and rural development assistance as part of U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) Program. The Solomon Valley RC&D in north central Kansas has been approved to hire a full-time coordinator. Solomon Valley includes the counties of Norton, Phillips, Smith, Graham, Rooks and Osborne.

"Local volunteers, concerned about their communities and the environment, work hard to keep this program operating," Moran said. "This next step will allow the program to grow in north central Kansas and give them the resources to work on projects such as reducing soil erosion and improving water quality to helping create more local jobs and businesses."

Today's announcement will allow Solomon Valley to hire a coordinator and establish more permanent offices to organize projects for the program in north central Kansas. The coordinator will work to prioritize projects and oversee their implementation.

"This will be a tremendous benefit to our part of the state," Don Heikes of Lenora and President of the Solomon Valley RC&D, said. "The new coordinator will give us a full-time staff member who knows how to get things done."

Solomon Valley competed with applicants from across the country and was among only seven areas to be selected. The areas were selected based on local needs, technical merits of the application and readiness for designation.

Additional information on the RC&D program can be found at www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/rcd/.

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