

USDA To Provide \$325 Million To Help Bridge Digital Divide

WASHINGTON, D.C. — U.S. Agriculture Secretary Dan Glickman recently announced that USDA is accepting applications for \$325 million in loans and grants for telecommunication projects that will bring improved education and medical services to rural areas. The funds are being made available through USDA's Rural Development Distance Learning and Telemedicine (DLT) Program.

"As a part of the technological innovation legacy of this administration, the DLT program is giving us a clear view to a better future for rural education and health care service," said Glickman. "With \$102 million invested in more than 383 projects since 1993, this program has improved the educational opportunities for thousands of students and provided better quality health care to rural citizens served by more than 1000 hospitals and rural health care

clinics."

The Rural Utilities Service of USDA Rural Development is accepting applications for the following funds: \$15 million in grants, \$200 million in loans, and \$110 million for grant/loan combinations. The later will include \$10 million in grants and \$100 million in loans.

With distance learning, students in isolated rural schools can participate in virtual field trips or take college preparatory and foreign language classes. Telemedicine projects enable rural patients to be examined by doctors in distant locations, bringing better health care service to remote communities and saving time, money, and even lives.

Applications for grants must be postmarked no later than March 2, 2001. Applications for loans or loan/grant applications will be accepted until Sept. 30, 2001.

Additional details, along with regulations and application guide, are available on the web at <http://www.usda.gov/rus/dlt/dlml.htm>. The tele-

phone contact is (202) 690-4493 and the fax number is (202) 720-1051. Applications are to be submitted to the USDA Rural Utilities Service, 1400 Inde-

pendence Avenue, SW, Mail Stop 1550, Washington, D.C. 20250-1550. Indicate attention to the Director, Advanced Services Division, Telecommunications Program.

Morgan Named Associate Dean For Del. Agriculture, Natural Resources

NEWARK, Del. — Dr. Robin W. Morgan has been named associate dean for research in the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources and associate director of the Agricultural Experiment Station at the University of Delaware.

She will provide leadership, guidance, and coordination for the college's research program as well as stimulate multidisciplinary research, support graduate education, and develop grantsmanship support services.

An international authority on Marek's Disease, a virus-induced cancer of chickens,

Morgan joined UD's animal and food sciences faculty in 1985. She has been a professor of molecular biology since 1996.

In 1997, she was graduated from Meredith College in Raleigh, N.C., with a bachelor's degree in biology. She received her doctorate, also in biology, from Johns Hopkins University in 1982.

She did postdoctoral work in biochemistry from 1982 to 1985 at the University of California at Berkeley.

The assistant chair of the department of animal and food sciences for the past seven years, Morgan also has served on the management team for the Center for Agricultural Biotechnology and has helped develop the mission and vision for the Delaware Biotechnology Institute.

In addition to her administrative duties, Morgan will maintain an active research program. Her research interests center on the molecular biology of

Marek's Disease virus, a herpes virus that causes infectious T-cell lymphomas in chickens. Specific research projects include understanding the molecular mechanisms that lead to transformation of T cells by the virus, examining the immunological responses that result in vaccine-induced protection from lymphoma formation, and developing vaccines to control Marek's Disease.

In July, Morgan and colleague Joan Burnside were awarded a \$950,000 National Research Initiative grant from USDA to expand the development of an expressed sequence tag database of the chicken genome (<http://www.chickest.udel.edu>). In addition to mentoring graduate students, she has taught an undergraduate interdisciplinary course and laboratory, "Principles of Animal and Plant Genetics." Morgan has published extensively in the Journal of Virology and other publications.

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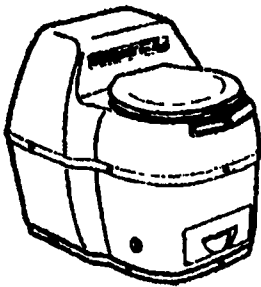
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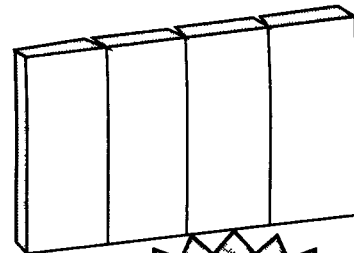
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