

Registrations are being accepted for the Rural Jobs, Rural Opportunities Conference being held Monday, March 29 at the Holiday Inn Convention Center, 110 Second Ave. in Kearney, from 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m. CT.

Focus will be placed on linking financial and technical resources with entrepreneurs, business owners and community leaders interested in the creation and preservation of jobs.

The registration fee for this conference is \$25 with a registration deadline of March 22.

USDA Rural Development Nebraska State Director Maxine Moul encourages residents, business owners, youth and community leaders to attend.

Speakers for the conference include Judith Canales, the Rural Business-Cooperative Services' administrator, Dr. Randy Cantrell, the senior fellow for the Center for Applied Rural Innovation and development specialist with the Nebraska Rural Initiative at the University of Nebraska, Brad Moline, the president of Allo Communication Inc., and Bruce and Sue Ann Switzer, owners and managers of the Switzer Ranch.

Additionally, expert panelists will facilitate the break out discussions and will touch on the topics of guaranteed loans/access to credit, broadband, local foods, eco-tourism, business opportunities/business transition, revolving loan fund, renewable energy and local funding for community economic development.

To register, contact Work Force Development Fund c/o Kearney Area Community Foundation PO Box 1694 Kearney, NE 68848; cmytfndn@kearney.net or phone 308-237-3114. Accepted methods of payment are cash or check. Pre-registration is preferred. Walk-ins are welcome, however lunch and parking will be provided to pre-registered guests only.

For more information on the conference please contact Paul Bartlett at (308) (237) 3118 ext. 4, paul.bartlett@ne.usda.gov; or contact Vicki Schurman at (402) (437) 5563,

vicki.schurman@ne.usda.gov. Visit <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/ne/> for a downloadable conference brochure.