

Southeastern Montana Development Receives USDA Funding for Broadus Wool Mill

(Colstrip) Southeastern Montana Development Corporation (SEMDC) recently announced that it has been awarded a Rural Business Enterprise Grant (RBEG) from USDA Rural Development. The \$20,000 grant to SEMDC will be used to purchase specialized equipment for use by the Big Sky Quality Wool Mill in Broadus.



“SEMDC is certainly pleased to be able to assist the Big Sky Quality Wool Mill with their specific equipment needs. This certainly is a Win-Win situation. Our positive and ongoing relationship with Rural Development is a benefit being felt throughout southeastern Montana,” noted Jim Atchison, Executive Director of SEMDC.

This project would not only retain four jobs, but it would also keep at least one niche value-added AG business from leaving eastern Montana. The additional equipment will allow Big Sky Quality Wool to maximize its value-added, wool-processing capacity and to expand their wool products and services. The Rural Development RBEG grant leveraged with a bank loan would purchase a spinning frame, new hot water heater and related supplies, installation and equipment

training.

“We are all very excited and are now looking forward to offering complete wool processing to our present and future customers,” stated Becky McEuen. McEuen, along with Carla Bowers, Charlotte Carlat and Carolyn Schroeder are the four LLC members of this woman owned business. Big Sky Quality Wool can be contacted at (406) 436-2184 or visit their website at www.bigskyqualitywool.com.



SEMDC is a regional non-profit economic development group that was established in 1997 to stimulate and encourage economic activity in the four (4) Counties of Custer, Powder River Rosebud and Treasure. Today, SEMDC continues to work with various groups and individuals in the public, private and non-profit sectors to help create and retain jobs in eastern Montana. Since 1997, the Colstrip based group has documented

assistance in creating or retaining over 554 jobs and over \$12.4 million dollars in project assistance. For more information contact SEMDC at 748-2990 or visit their website at www.semdc.org