

## Bennet speaks on USDA Rural Development

Written by Holyoke Enterprise

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Colorado U.S. Senator Michael Bennet met with small business owners, hospital officials and firefighters, along with representatives from Highline Rural Electric Association and the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Monday, Aug. 26 to highlight and discuss the importance of USDA Rural Development resources in the Farm Bill.



**Colorado U.S. Senator Michael Bennet, pictured at right, listens intently to the success stories people have had getting loans through the Rural Development program. Travis and Melissa Bumgardner, pictured in the background, were on hand and answered questions about how the program has helped their business, Abts Pharmacy, succeed. □ □**

**—Enterprise photo**

The event was held at Abts Pharmacy in Haxtun, which recently received a \$200,000 revolving loan, administered by the Highline Rural Electric Association, to help grow its business. Such loans allow electric associations to provide revolving loan capital for a number of projects in rural communities.

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The USDA Rural Development program provides grants, direct loans and guaranteed loans to rural recipients, such as fire districts, small businesses and hospitals. The program has supported everything from a library in Burlington to a hospital in Holyoke to a pizza parlor in Windsor.

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