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### **For Immediate Release**

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## **Grey House Publishing announces the Second Edition of *Encyclopedia of Rural America: The Land and People***

*“Encyclopedia of Rural America will supply information for sociology and environmental studies, as well as agriculture classes. School and public libraries servicing rural America will find this a valuable tool, but other areas will also find many questions answered. Highly Recommended.”*

*-The Book Report*

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Grey House Publishing is proud to announce the publication of the second edition of *Encyclopedia of Rural America: The Land and People*. Previously published by ABC-CLIO in 1997, this is Grey House Publishing’s first edition.

Rural sometimes is viewed as synonymous with agriculture. Agriculture is extremely important to rural America; it has been the mainstay of many rural communities, and continues throughout much of rural America as the predominant economic sector. But other economic sectors also are vital. Many regions depend primarily on forestry, fishing, energy, mining, manufacturing, tourism, or other industries. Thus, the *Encyclopedia of Rural America* includes articles describing these diverse industries and the roles they play in the lives of rural people.

An additional feature in this second edition of the *Encyclopedia of Rural America* is a new section of **Primary Documents** – a collection of articles, book chapter excerpts, and speeches that address the following question, “What are the visions for rural America?” The materials are clustered into three sets of visions, or beliefs, of ways to best care for the land and people of rural America. The first emphasizes a high-tech, industrialized economy; the second seeks a sustainable social order, economy, and environment; and the third vision draw upon alternative, new paradigms for rural America.

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This edition adds 121 names to the list of contributors to the first edition, creating a group of 380 of the strongest, most experienced authorities on rural America in the country today. The original authors of the first edition articles, in most cases, updated and enhanced their articles for this second edition. In the event that this wasn't possible, new scholars were invited to not only update, but also write new articles, emphasizing the areas of emergency management, environmental concern, and rural sustainability.

There are 73 brand new essays, primarily focusing on major, recent concerns of not only rural, but also urban America: emergency management; disaster preparedness; management of natural resources; alternative energy, social movements, rural development, and sustainability. In addition, all articles from the first edition have been revised as needed, so this new edition offers a total of 305 articles that address the most pressing topics of concern to rural America, from Addiction to Workers' Compensation.

The encyclopedia is arranged alphabetically. Most articles begin with a concise definition of the term, and are followed with an article abstract or overview. Some articles have extensive citations referring to data, research findings, and quotations; others have fewer citations, but may include data from the public domain, such that from the Census Bureau. All articles end with a list of references that were cited in the narrative as well as "must read" items. The reference sections serve as a guide and place to start. A general index is provided to cross—reference terms or topics. Several articles include graphs, tables, and photographs for illustration.

There is a new Timeline, detailing important firsts in areas vital to rural America. Events like the invention of the cast-iron plow in 1797, in 1848 when coal miners union formed in Pennsylvania, and in 1946 the Nation School Lunch Act was passed, providing reduced cost/free lunches to school students. Items for the timeline were selected to reflect the various emphasis of this second edition. Some of which include agriculture and other natural resource based industries, natural resource management, care for the land, community life, and the wide diversity of residents in rural America.

Along with the new Timeline, there are many updates and added items to the bibliography and index sections. The cited books and monographs, written between 1980 and 2008, pertain to various aspects of life in rural America. These interdisciplinary references were selected by the editor and the authors of the encyclopedia articles, and represent the variety of topics addressed in this 2<sup>nd</sup> edition. The updated index includes all new additions to this edition, including pieces from laws and acts that were passed and many journals, magazines, and photos.

*Encyclopedia of Rural America* is intended for several audiences. The academic world consisting of faculty, researchers, and undergraduate and graduate students need handy reference to information that may be outside of their immediate area of expertise. Another audience is people who work with rural residences or in rural areas, including county commissioners, newspaper editors, clergy, legal staff, government officials, librarians, teachers, county Extension staff, counselors, change agents, and industry leaders.

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