

## Holt County Continues Work on Enhanced Enterprise Zone

(KTNC)--Holt County Missouri Commissioners are continuing the process of setting up an Enhanced Enterprise Zone in the county.

The commission has contracted with the Northwest Missouri Council of Governments, and the organization's Director, Jackie Spainhower, to do the legwork involved in setting up the EEZ. The enhanced enterprise zone, as envisioned currently, would include the entire county except the city of Oregon and an area surrounding Oregon.

County Clerk Kathy Kunkel says they're developing the enterprise zone to encourage the development of agriculture-related businesses in the county.

Qualifying businesses could apply for tax incentives. Those that qualify would receive rebates from the county of 50% or greater for up to 10 years, with the amount of the rebate depending on the type of business it is, the number of employees, and the amount of expansion.

In addition to local incentives, new businesses could also apply for incentives through the Missouri Department of Economic Development, in the form of tax breaks for adding employees.

Spainhower will meet with officials in Holt County communities in the coming weeks to iron out the details of the EEZ. Kunkel anticipates the process will take a couple months, and the County Commission will have to hold a public hearing before approving the Enhanced Enterprise Zone.

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