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Form **990****Return of Organization Exempt From Income Tax**

OMB No. 1545-0047

2009**Open to Public Inspection**Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service

Under section 501(c), 527, or 4947(a)(1) of the Internal Revenue Code (except black lung benefit trust or private foundation)

▶ The organization may have to use a copy of this return to satisfy state reporting requirements.

A For the 2009 calendar year, or tax year beginning **January 1**, 2009, and ending **December 31**, 20 **09****B** Check if applicable:

- ☐ Address change
- ☐ Name change
- ☐ Initial return
- ☐ Terminated
- ☐ Amended return
- ☐ Application pending

Please use IRS label or print or type See Specific Instructions.

C Name of organization **Rural Advantage**

Doing Business As

Number and street (or P.O. box if mail is not delivered to street address)

1243 Lake Avenue

Room/suite

222

City or town, state or country, and ZIP + 4

Fairmont, MN 56031**D** Employer identification number**86 1087174****E** Telephone number**(507) 238-5449****G** Gross receipts \$ **278,856****F** Name and address of principal officer **Linda Meschke****3824 Cedar Creek Court, Fairmont, MN 56031****H(a)** Is this a group return for affiliates? ☐ Yes ☒ No**H(b)** Are all affiliates included? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If "No," attach a list (see instructions)

H(c) Group exemption number ▶**I** Tax-exempt status ☒ 501(c) (**3**) (insert no) ☐ 4947(a)(1) or ☐ 527**J** Website: ▶ **www.ruraladvantage.org****K** Form of organization ☒ Corporation ☐ Trust ☐ Association ☐ Other ▶**L** Year of formation. **2003****M** State of legal domicile **MN****Part I Summary**

Activities & Governance	1 Briefly describe the organization's mission or most significant activities: Rural Advantage's mission is to promote the connection between agriculture, environment and rural communities in order to improve economic viability, ecological health, and rural vitality.		
	2 Check this box ☐ if the organization discontinued its operations or disposed of more than 25% of its net assets		
	3 Number of voting members of the governing body (Part VI, line 1a)	3	3
	4 Number of independent voting members of the governing body (Part VI, line 1b)	4	3
	5 Total number of employees (Part V, line 2a)	5	3
Revenue	6 Total number of volunteers (estimate if necessary)	6	0
	7a Total gross unrelated business revenue from Part VIII, column (C), line 12	7a	0
	b Net unrelated business taxable income from Form 990-T, line 34	7b	0
	8 Contributions and grants (Part VIII, line 1h)	Prior Year	Current Year
	9 Program service revenue (Part VIII, line 2g)	605601	278783
Expenses	10 Investment income (Part VIII, column (A), lines 3, 4, and 7d)	0	0
	11 Other revenue (Part VIII, column (A), lines 5, 6d, 8c, 9c, 10c, and 11e)	68	73
	12 Total revenue—add lines 8 through 11 (must equal Part VIII, column (A), line 12)	0	0
	13 Grants and similar amounts paid (Part IX, column (A), lines 1–3)	605669	278856
	14 Benefits paid to or for members (Part IX, column (A), line 4)	0	0
	15 Salaries, other compensation, employee benefits (Part IX, column (A), lines 5–10)	0	0
	16a Professional fundraising fees (Part IX, column (A), line 11e)	123839	137879
	b Total fundraising expenses (Part IX, column (D), line 25) ▶ 5697	0	0
	17 Other expenses (Part IX, column (A), lines 11a–11d, 11f–24f)	360641	172948
	18 Total expenses—add lines 13–17 (must equal Part IX, column (A), line 25)	484480	310827
Net Assets or Fund Balances	19 Revenue less expenses. Subtract line 18 from line 12	121189	-31971
	20 Total assets (Part X, line 16)	Beginning of Current Year	End of Year
	21 Total liabilities (Part X, line 26)	137430	105279
	22 Net assets or fund balances. Subtract line 21 from line 20	0	0

Part II Signature Block

Under penalties of perjury, I declare that I have examined this return, including accompanying schedules and statements, and to the best of my knowledge and belief, it is true, correct, and complete. Declaration of preparer (other than officer) is based on all information of which preparer has any knowledge.

Sign Here

Signature of officer

Date

Type or print name and title

Paid**Preparer's Use Only**

Preparer's signature

Date

Check if self-employed ☐

Preparer's identifying number (see instructions)

Firm's name (or yours if self-employed), address, and ZIP + 4

EIN

Phone no ()

May the IRS discuss this return with the preparer shown above? (see instructions)

☐ Yes ☐ No

For Privacy Act and Paperwork Reduction Act Notice, see the separate instructions.

Cat. No. 11282Y

Form **990** (2009)

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Part III Statement of Program Service Accomplishments

- 1** Briefly describe the organization's mission:
To promote the connections between agriculture, the environment and rural communities in order to improve ecological health, economic viability and rural vitality.
-
- 2** Did the organization undertake any significant program services during the year which were not listed on the prior Form 990 or 990-EZ? ☐ Yes ☒ No
 If "Yes," describe these new services on Schedule O.
- 3** Did the organization cease conducting, or make significant changes in how it conducts, any program services? ☐ Yes ☒ No
 If "Yes," describe these changes on Schedule O.
- 4** Describe the exempt purpose achievements for each of the organization's three largest program services by expenses. Section 501(c)(3) and 501(c)(4) organizations and section 4947(a)(1) trusts are required to report the amount of grants and allocations to others, the total expenses, and revenue, if any, for each program service reported.

4a (Code:) (Expenses \$ **122895** including grants of \$ **0**) (Revenue \$ **0**)
3RD CROP INITIATIVE is an effort to to improve water quality in local rivers and lakes by diversifying the current agricultural cropping system. In our region the main cropping system is corn and soybeans. Through a variety of educational programs and outreach events we provide technical assistance to landowners/ operators interested in other crop opportunities. Examples of 3rd crops include alfalfa, hazelnuts, grapes, wheat oats, native grasses for seed or bioenergy uses. Examples of outreach include 3rd Crop Walk N Talks [field days]; 3rd Crop Winter Series, on farm demonstrations, presentations, displays and news articles.

4b (Code:) (Expenses \$ **73737** including grants of \$ **0**) (Revenue \$ **0**)
ECOPayPack [Ecological Commodity Payment Package] is a program we are developing to facilitate the packaging of various ecological values from a landowner so they can receive payments for that ecological value they provide through their land management decisions. Examples include carbon, phosphorous, nitrogen, sediment, flow reduction and habitat improvement.

4c (Code:) (Expenses \$ **49158** including grants of \$ **0**) (Revenue \$ **0**)
Madelia Model is a community development project to demonstrate how sustainable renewable energy can serve as a catalyst to create jobs, add value to local produce and serve as a driver for stronger community and sense of place. We are in process of identifying key players who can help us build and demonstrate this model at Madelia, MN.

4d Other program services. (Describe in Schedule O.)
 (Expenses \$ **0** including grants of \$ **0**) (Revenue \$ **0**)

4e Total program service expenses **\$245,790**

Part IV Checklist of Required Schedules

	Yes	No
1 Is the organization described in section 501(c)(3) or 4947(a)(1) (other than a private foundation)? If "Yes," complete Schedule A	☒	☐
2 Is the organization required to complete Schedule B, Schedule of Contributors?	☒	☐
3 Did the organization engage in direct or indirect political campaign activities on behalf of or in opposition to candidates for public office? If "Yes," complete Schedule C, Part I	☐	☒
4 Section 501(c)(3) organizations. Did the organization engage in lobbying activities? If "Yes," complete Schedule C, Part II	☐	☒
5 Section 501(c)(4), 501(c)(5), and 501(c)(6) organizations. Is the organization subject to the section 6033(e) notice and reporting requirement and proxy tax? If "Yes," complete Schedule C, Part III	☐	☐
6 Did the organization maintain any donor advised funds or any similar funds or accounts where donors have the right to provide advice on the distribution or investment of amounts in such funds or accounts? If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part I	☐	☒
7 Did the organization receive or hold a conservation easement, including easements to preserve open space, the environment, historic land areas, or historic structures? If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part II	☐	☒
8 Did the organization maintain collections of works of art, historical treasures, or other similar assets? If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part III	☐	☒
9 Did the organization report an amount in Part X, line 21; serve as a custodian for amounts not listed in Part X; or provide credit counseling, debt management, credit repair, or debt negotiation services? If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part IV	☐	☒
10 Did the organization, directly or through a related organization, hold assets in term, permanent, or quasi-endowments? If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part V	☐	☒
11 Is the organization's answer to any of the following questions "Yes"? If so, complete Schedule D, Parts VI, VII, VIII, IX, or X as applicable	☐	☒
- Did the organization report an amount for land, buildings, and equipment in Part X, line 10? If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part VI. - Did the organization report an amount for investments—other securities in Part X, line 12 that is 5% or more of its total assets reported in Part X, line 16? If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part VII. - Did the organization report an amount for investments—program related in Part X, line 13 that is 5% or more of its total assets reported in Part X, line 16? If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part VIII. - Did the organization report an amount for other assets in Part X, line 15 that is 5% or more of its total assets reported in Part X, line 16? If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part IX. - Did the organization report an amount for other liabilities in Part X, line 25? If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part X. - Did the organization's separate or consolidated financial statements for the tax year include a footnote that addresses the organization's liability for uncertain tax positions under FIN 48? If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part X.	☐	☐
12 Did the organization obtain separate, independent audited financial statements for the tax year? If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Parts XI, XII, and XIII.	☐	☒
12A Was the organization included in consolidated, independent audited financial statements for the tax year? If "Yes," completing Schedule D, Parts XI, XII, and XIII is optional	☐	☒
13 Is the organization a school described in section 170(b)(1)(A)(ii)? If "Yes," complete Schedule E	☐	☒
14a Did the organization maintain an office, employees, or agents outside of the United States?	☐	☒
b Did the organization have aggregate revenues or expenses of more than \$10,000 from grantmaking, fundraising, business, and program service activities outside the United States? If "Yes," complete Schedule F, Part I	☐	☒
15 Did the organization report on Part IX, column (A), line 3, more than \$5,000 of grants or assistance to any organization or entity located outside the United States? If "Yes," complete Schedule F, Part II	☐	☒
16 Did the organization report on Part IX, column (A), line 3, more than \$5,000 of aggregate grants or assistance to individuals located outside the United States? If "Yes," complete Schedule F, Part III	☐	☒
17 Did the organization report a total of more than \$15,000 of expenses for professional fundraising services on Part IX, column (A), lines 6 and 11e? If "Yes," complete Schedule G, Part I	☐	☒
18 Did the organization report more than \$15,000 total of fundraising event gross income and contributions on Part VIII, lines 1c and 8a? If "Yes," complete Schedule G, Part II	☐	☒
19 Did the organization report more than \$15,000 of gross income from gaming activities on Part VIII, line 9a? If "Yes," complete Schedule G, Part III	☐	☒
20 Did the organization operate one or more hospitals? If "Yes," complete Schedule H	☐	☒

Part IV Checklist of Required Schedules (continued)

	Yes	No
21 Did the organization report more than \$5,000 of grants and other assistance to governments and organizations in the United States on Part IX, column (A), line 1? If "Yes," complete Schedule I, Parts I and II.		✓
22 Did the organization report more than \$5,000 of grants and other assistance to individuals in the United States on Part IX, column (A), line 2? If "Yes," complete Schedule I, Parts I and III.		✓
23 Did the organization answer "Yes" to Part VII, Section A, line 3, 4, or 5 about compensation of the organization's current and former officers, directors, trustees, key employees, and highest compensated employees? If "Yes," complete Schedule J.		✓
24a Did the organization have a tax-exempt bond issue with an outstanding principal amount of more than \$100,000 as of the last day of the year, that was issued after December 31, 2002? If "Yes," answer lines 24b through 24d and complete Schedule K. If "No," go to line 25.		✓
b Did the organization invest any proceeds of tax-exempt bonds beyond a temporary period exception?		✓
c Did the organization maintain an escrow account other than a refunding escrow at any time during the year to defease any tax-exempt bonds?		✓
d Did the organization act as an "on behalf of" issuer for bonds outstanding at any time during the year?		✓
25a Section 501(c)(3) and 501(c)(4) organizations. Did the organization engage in an excess benefit transaction with a disqualified person during the year? If "Yes," complete Schedule L, Part I.		✓
b Is the organization aware that it engaged in an excess benefit transaction with a disqualified person in a prior year, and that the transaction has not been reported on any of the organization's prior Forms 990 or 990-EZ? If "Yes," complete Schedule L, Part I.		✓
26 Was a loan to or by a current or former officer, director, trustee, key employee, highly compensated employee, or disqualified person outstanding as of the end of the organization's tax year? If "Yes," complete Schedule L, Part II.		✓
27 Did the organization provide a grant or other assistance to an officer, director, trustee, key employee, substantial contributor, or a grant selection committee member, or to a person related to such an individual? If "Yes," complete Schedule L, Part III.		✓
28 Was the organization a party to a business transaction with one of the following parties (see Schedule L, Part IV instructions for applicable filing thresholds, conditions, and exceptions):		
a A current or former officer, director, trustee, or key employee? If "Yes," complete Schedule L, Part IV.	✓	
b A family member of a current or former officer, director, trustee, or key employee? If "Yes," complete Schedule L, Part IV.		✓
c An entity of which a current or former officer, director, trustee, or key employee of the organization (or a family member) was an officer, director, trustee, or direct or indirect owner? If "Yes," complete Schedule L, Part IV.		✓
29 Did the organization receive more than \$25,000 in non-cash contributions? If "Yes," complete Schedule M.		✓
30 Did the organization receive contributions of art, historical treasures, or other similar assets, or qualified conservation contributions? If "Yes," complete Schedule M.		✓
31 Did the organization liquidate, terminate, or dissolve and cease operations? If "Yes," complete Schedule N, Part I.		✓
32 Did the organization sell, exchange, dispose of, or transfer more than 25% of its net assets? If "Yes," complete Schedule N, Part II.		✓
33 Did the organization own 100% of an entity disregarded as separate from the organization under Regulations sections 301.7701-2 and 301.7701-3? If "Yes," complete Schedule R, Part I.		✓
34 Was the organization related to any tax-exempt or taxable entity? If "Yes," complete Schedule R, Parts II, III, IV, and V, line 1.		✓
35 Is any related organization a controlled entity within the meaning of section 512(b)(13)? If "Yes," complete Schedule R, Part V, line 2.		✓
36 Section 501(c)(3) organizations. Did the organization make any transfers to an exempt non-charitable related organization? If "Yes," complete Schedule R, Part V, line 2.		✓
37 Did the organization conduct more than 5% of its activities through an entity that is not a related organization and that is treated as a partnership for federal income tax purposes? If "Yes," complete Schedule R, Part VI.		✓
38 Did the organization complete Schedule O and provide explanations in Schedule O for Part VI, lines 11 and 19? Note. All Form 990 filers are required to complete Schedule O.	✓	

Part V Statements Regarding Other IRS Filings and Tax Compliance

		Yes	No
1a	Enter the number reported in Box 3 of Form 1096, Annual Summary and Transmittal of U.S. Information Returns. Enter -0- if not applicable	1a	0
b	Enter the number of Forms W-2G included in line 1a. Enter -0- if not applicable	1b	0
c	Did the organization comply with backup withholding rules for reportable payments to vendors and reportable gaming (gambling) winnings to prize winners?	1c	✓
2a	Enter the number of employees reported on Form W-3, Transmittal of Wage and Tax Statements, filed for the calendar year ending with or within the year covered by this return	2a	3
b	If at least one is reported on line 2a, did the organization file all required federal employment tax returns? Note. If the sum of lines 1a and 2a is greater than 250, you may be required to e-file this return. (see instructions)	2b	✓
3a	Did the organization have unrelated business gross income of \$1,000 or more during the year covered by this return?	3a	✓
b	If "Yes," has it filed a Form 990-T for this year? If "No," provide an explanation in Schedule O	3b	
4a	At any time during the calendar year, did the organization have an interest in, or a signature or other authority over, a financial account in a foreign country (such as a bank account, securities account, or other financial account)?	4a	✓
b	If "Yes," enter the name of the foreign country: ▶ See the instructions for exceptions and filing requirements for Form TD F 90-22.1, Report of Foreign Bank and Financial Accounts.		
5a	Was the organization a party to a prohibited tax shelter transaction at any time during the tax year?	5a	✓
b	Did any taxable party notify the organization that it was or is a party to a prohibited tax shelter transaction?	5b	✓
c	If "Yes" to line 5a or 5b, did the organization file Form 8886-T, Disclosure by Tax-Exempt Entity Regarding Prohibited Tax Shelter Transaction?	5c	
6a	Does the organization have annual gross receipts that are normally greater than \$100,000, and did the organization solicit any contributions that were not tax deductible?	6a	✓
b	If "Yes," did the organization include with every solicitation an express statement that such contributions or gifts were not tax deductible?	6b	
7	Organizations that may receive deductible contributions under section 170(c).		
a	Did the organization receive a payment in excess of \$75 made partly as a contribution and partly for goods and services provided to the payor?	7a	
b	If "Yes," did the organization notify the donor of the value of the goods or services provided?	7b	
c	Did the organization sell, exchange, or otherwise dispose of tangible personal property for which it was required to file Form 8282?	7c	
d	If "Yes," indicate the number of Forms 8282 filed during the year	7d	
e	Did the organization, during the year, receive any funds, directly or indirectly, to pay premiums on a personal benefit contract?	7e	
f	Did the organization, during the year, pay premiums, directly or indirectly, on a personal benefit contract?	7f	
g	For all contributions of qualified intellectual property, did the organization file Form 8899 as required?	7g	
h	For contributions of cars, boats, airplanes, and other vehicles, did the organization file a Form 1098-C as required?	7h	
8	Sponsoring organizations maintaining donor advised funds and section 509(a)(3) supporting organizations. Did the supporting organization, or a donor advised fund maintained by a sponsoring organization, have excess business holdings at any time during the year?	8	
9	Sponsoring organizations maintaining donor advised funds.		
a	Did the organization make any taxable distributions under section 4966?	9a	
b	Did the organization make a distribution to a donor, donor advisor, or related person?	9b	
10	Section 501(c)(7) organizations. Enter:		
a	Initiation fees and capital contributions included on Part VIII, line 12.	10a	
b	Gross receipts, included on Form 990, Part VIII, line 12, for public use of club facilities	10b	
11	Section 501(c)(12) organizations. Enter:		
a	Gross income from members or shareholders	11a	
b	Gross income from other sources (Do not net amounts due or paid to other sources against amounts due or received from them.)	11b	
12a	Section 4947(a)(1) non-exempt charitable trusts. Is the organization filing Form 990 in lieu of Form 1041?	12a	
b	If "Yes," enter the amount of tax-exempt interest received or accrued during the year.	12b	

Part VI Governance, Management, and Disclosure For each "Yes" response to lines 2 through 7b below, and for a "No" response to line 8a, 8b, or 10b below, describe the circumstances, processes, or changes in Schedule O. See instructions.

Section A. Governing Body and Management

	Yes	No
1a Enter the number of voting members of the governing body	1a 3	
b Enter the number of voting members that are independent	1b 3	
2 Did any officer, director, trustee, or key employee have a family relationship or a business relationship with any other officer, director, trustee, or key employee?	2	✓
3 Did the organization delegate control over management duties customarily performed by or under the direct supervision of officers, directors or trustees, or key employees to a management company or other person?	3	✓
4 Did the organization make any significant changes to its organizational documents since the prior Form 990 was filed?	4	✓
5 Did the organization become aware during the year of a material diversion of the organization's assets?	5	✓
6 Does the organization have members or stockholders?	6	✓
7a Does the organization have members, stockholders, or other persons who may elect one or more members of the governing body?	7a	✓
b Are any decisions of the governing body subject to approval by members, stockholders, or other persons?	7b	✓
8 Did the organization contemporaneously document the meetings held or written actions undertaken during the year by the following:		
a The governing body?	8a ✓	
b Each committee with authority to act on behalf of the governing body?	8b	✓
9 Is there any officer, director, trustee, or key employee listed in Part VII, Section A, who cannot be reached at the organization's mailing address? If "Yes," provide the names and addresses in Schedule O	9a	✓

Section B. Policies (This Section B requests information about policies not required by the Internal Revenue Code.)

	Yes	No
10a Does the organization have local chapters, branches, or affiliates?	10a	✓
b If "Yes," does the organization have written policies and procedures governing the activities of such chapters, affiliates, and branches to ensure their operations are consistent with those of the organization?	10b	
11 Has the organization provided a copy of this Form 990 to all members of its governing body before filing the form?	11 ✓	
11A Describe in Schedule O the process, if any, used by the organization to review this Form 990.		
12a Does the organization have a written conflict of interest policy? If "No," go to line 13	12a ✓	
b Are officers, directors or trustees, and key employees required to disclose annually interests that could give rise to conflicts?	12b ✓	
c Does the organization regularly and consistently monitor and enforce compliance with the policy? If "Yes," describe in Schedule O how this is done	12c ✓	
13 Does the organization have a written whistleblower policy?	13	✓
14 Does the organization have a written document retention and destruction policy?	14	✓
15 Did the process for determining compensation of the following persons include a review and approval by independent persons, comparability data, and contemporaneous substantiation of the deliberation and decision?		
a The organization's CEO, Executive Director, or top management official	15a	✓
b Other officers or key employees of the organization	15b	✓
If "Yes" to line 15a or 15b, describe the process in Schedule O. (See instructions.)		
16a Did the organization invest in, contribute assets to, or participate in a joint venture or similar arrangement with a taxable entity during the year?	16a	✓
b If "Yes," has the organization adopted a written policy or procedure requiring the organization to evaluate its participation in joint venture arrangements under applicable federal tax law, and taken steps to safeguard the organization's exempt status with respect to such arrangements?	16b	

Section C. Disclosure

- 17** List the states with which a copy of this Form 990 is required to be filed ► **MN**
- 18** Section 6104 requires an organization to make its Forms 1023 (or 1024 if applicable), 990, and 990-T (501(c)(3)s only) available for public inspection. Indicate how you make these available. Check all that apply.
☐ Own website ☐ Another's website ☒ Upon request
- 19** Describe in Schedule O whether (and if so, how), the organization makes its governing documents, conflict of interest policy, and financial statements available to the public.
- 20** State the name, physical address, and telephone number of the person who possesses the books and records of the organization: ► **Linda Meschke, President 1243 Lake Avenue, Suite 222, Fairmont, MN 56031 507.238.5449**

Section A. Officers, Directors, Trustees, Key Employees, and Highest Compensated Employees

☐ Check this box if the organization did not compensate any current officer, director, or trustee.

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Part VII	Section A. Officers, Directors, Trustees, Key Employees, and Highest Compensated Employees <i>(continued)</i>
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[illegible]

2 Total number of individuals (including but not limited to those listed above) who received more than \$100,000 in reportable compensation from the organization ► 0

- 3 Did the organization list any **former** officer, director or trustee, key employee, or highest compensated employee on line 1a? If "Yes," complete Schedule J for such individual
- 4 For any individual listed on line 1a, is the sum of reportable compensation and other compensation from the organization and related organizations greater than \$150,000? If "Yes," complete Schedule J for such individual.
- 5 Did any person listed on line 1a receive or accrue compensation from any unrelated organization for services rendered to the organization? If "Yes," complete Schedule J for such person

	Yes	No
3		✓
4		✓
5		✓

Section B. Independent Contractors

1 Complete this table for your five highest compensated independent contractors that received more than \$100,000 of compensation from the organization.

(A) Name and business address	(B) Description of services	(C) Compensation
None		
2 Total number of independent contractors (including but not limited to those listed above) who received more than \$100,000 in compensation from the organization ► 0		

Part VIII Statement of Revenue

				(A) Total revenue	(B) Related or exempt function revenue	(C) Unrelated business revenue	(D) Revenue excluded from tax under sections 512, 513, or 514
Contributions, gifts, grants and other similar amounts	1a Federated campaigns	1a					
	b Membership dues	1b					
	c Fundraising events	1c					
	d Related organizations	1d					
	e Government grants (contributions).	1e					
	f All other contributions, gifts, grants, and similar amounts not included above	1f	278783				
	g Noncash contributions included in lines 1a-1f: \$						
h Total. Add lines 1a-1f			278783				
Program Service Revenue			Business Code				
	2a						
	b						
	c						
	d						
	e						
	f All other program service revenue						
g Total. Add lines 2a-2f							
Other Revenue	3 Investment income (including dividends, interest, and other similar amounts)			73			
	4 Income from investment of tax-exempt bond proceeds			0			
	5 Royalties			0			
		(i) Real	(ii) Personal				
	6a Gross Rents						
	b Less: rental expenses						
	c Rental income or (loss)						
	d Net rental income or (loss)			0			
	7a Gross amount from sales of assets other than inventory	(i) Securities	(ii) Other				
	b Less: cost or other basis and sales expenses						
	c Gain or (loss)						
	d Net gain or (loss)			0			
	8a Gross income from fundraising events (not including \$ of contributions reported on line 1c). See Part IV, line 18	a					
	b Less: direct expenses	b					
	c Net income or (loss) from fundraising events			0			
	9a Gross income from gaming activities. See Part IV, line 19	a					
	b Less: direct expenses	b					
c Net income or (loss) from gaming activities			0				
10a Gross sales of inventory, less returns and allowances	a						
b Less: cost of goods sold	b						
c Net income or (loss) from sales of inventory			0				
Miscellaneous Revenue			Business Code				
11a							
b							
c							
d All other revenue							
e Total. Add lines 11a-11d			0				
12 Total revenue. See instructions.			278856				

Part IX Statement of Functional Expenses**Section 501(c)(3) and 501(c)(4) organizations must complete all columns.****All other organizations must complete column (A) but are not required to complete columns (B), (C), and (D).**

Do not include amounts reported on lines 6b, 7b, 8b, 9b, and 10b of Part VIII.	(A) Total expenses	(B) Program service expenses	(C) Management and general expenses	(D) Fundraising expenses
1 Grants and other assistance to governments and organizations in the U.S. See Part IV, line 21				
2 Grants and other assistance to individuals in the U.S. See Part IV, line 22				
3 Grants and other assistance to governments, organizations, and individuals outside the U.S. See Part IV, lines 15 and 16				
4 Benefits paid to or for members				
5 Compensation of current officers, directors, trustees, and key employees	67357	33679	30309	3369
6 Compensation not included above, to disqualified persons (as defined under section 4958(f)(1)) and persons described in section 4958(c)(3)(B)	0			
7 Other salaries and wages	56215	42161	14054	
8 Pension plan contributions (include section 401(k) and section 403(b) employer contributions)	3342	2506	836	
9 Other employee benefits	1160	870	290	
10 Payroll taxes	9805	7354	2451	
11 Fees for services (non-employees):				
a Management	16400	16400		
b Legal	0			
c Accounting	0			
d Lobbying	0			
e Professional fundraising services See Part IV, line 17	0			
f Investment management fees	0			
g Other	9564	9564		
12 Advertising and promotion	1952	1952		
13 Office expenses	15632	11724	3126	782
14 Information technology	234	176	46	12
15 Royalties	0			
16 Occupancy	17689	13266	3539	884
17 Travel	12787	9590	2558	639
18 Payments of travel or entertainment expenses for any federal, state, or local public officials	0			
19 Conferences, conventions, and meetings	2437	1828	609	
20 Interest	213	160	42	11
21 Payments to affiliates	0			
22 Depreciation, depletion, and amortization	0			
23 Insurance	0			
24 Other expenses. Itemize expenses not covered above. (Expenses grouped together and labeled miscellaneous may not exceed 5% of total expenses shown on line 25 below.)				
a Dues & Subscriptions	820		820	
b Conservation Agronomist	61903	61903		
c Sub Agreements for Project Work	32657	32657		
d Board Meetings	660		660	
e				
f All other expenses				
25 Total functional expenses. Add lines 1 through 24f	310827	245790	59340	5697
26 Joint costs. Check here ☐ if following SOP 98-2. Complete this line only if the organization reported in column (B) joint costs from a combined educational campaign and fundraising solicitation				

Part X Balance Sheet

		(A) Beginning of year		(B) End of year
Assets	1 Cash—non-interest-bearing	0	1	0
	2 Savings and temporary cash investments	137430	2	105279
	3 Pledges and grants receivable, net	0	3	0
	4 Accounts receivable, net	0	4	0
	5 Receivables from current and former officers, directors, trustees, key employees, and highest compensated employees. Complete Part II of Schedule L	0	5	0
	6 Receivables from other disqualified persons (as defined under section 4958(f)(1)) and persons described in section 4958(c)(3)(B). Complete Part II of Schedule L	0	6	0
	7 Notes and loans receivable, net	0	7	0
	8 Inventories for sale or use	0	8	0
	9 Prepaid expenses and deferred charges	0	9	0
	10a Land, buildings, and equipment: cost or other basis. Complete Part VI of Schedule D 10a			
	b Less: accumulated depreciation 10b	0	10c	0
	11 Investments—publicly traded securities	0	11	0
	12 Investments—other securities. See Part IV, line 11	0	12	0
	13 Investments—program-related. See Part IV, line 11	0	13	0
	14 Intangible assets	0	14	0
	15 Other assets. See Part IV, line 11	0	15	0
16 Total assets. Add lines 1 through 15 (must equal line 34)	137430	16	105279	
Liabilities	17 Accounts payable and accrued expenses	0	17	0
	18 Grants payable	0	18	0
	19 Deferred revenue	0	19	0
	20 Tax-exempt bond liabilities	0	20	0
	21 Escrow or custodial account liability. Complete Part IV of Schedule D	0	21	0
	22 Payables to current and former officers, directors, trustees, key employees, highest compensated employees, and disqualified persons. Complete Part II of Schedule L	0	22	0
	23 Secured mortgages and notes payable to unrelated third parties	0	23	0
	24 Unsecured notes and loans payable to unrelated third parties	0	24	0
	25 Other liabilities. Complete Part X of Schedule D	0	25	0
	26 Total liabilities. Add lines 17 through 25	0	26	0
Net Assets or Fund Balances	Organizations that follow SFAS 117, check here ☐ and complete lines 27 through 29, and lines 33 and 34.			
	27 Unrestricted net assets	0	27	0
	28 Temporarily restricted net assets	0	28	0
	29 Permanently restricted net assets	0	29	0
	Organizations that do not follow SFAS 117, check here ☐ and complete lines 30 through 34.			
	30 Capital stock or trust principal, or current funds	0	30	0
	31 Paid-in or capital surplus, or land, building, or equipment fund	0	31	0
	32 Retained earnings, endowment, accumulated income, or other funds	137430	32	105279
	33 Total net assets or fund balances	137430	33	105279
34 Total liabilities and net assets/fund balances	137430	34	105279	

Part XI Financial Statements and Reporting

- 1** Accounting method used to prepare the Form 990: ☒ Cash ☐ Accrual ☐ Other _____
If the organization changed its method of accounting from a prior year or checked "Other," explain in Schedule O.
- 2a** Were the organization's financial statements compiled or reviewed by an independent accountant?
- b** Were the organization's financial statements audited by an independent accountant?
- c** If "Yes" to line 2a or 2b, does the organization have a committee that assumes responsibility for oversight of the audit, review, or compilation of its financial statements and selection of an independent accountant?
If the organization changed either its oversight process or selection process during the tax year, explain in Schedule O.
- d** If "Yes" to line 2a or 2b, check a box below to indicate whether the financial statements for the year were issued on a consolidated basis, separate basis, or both:
☐ Separate basis ☐ Consolidated basis ☐ Both consolidated and separate basis
- 3a** As a result of a federal award, was the organization required to undergo an audit or audits as set forth in the Single Audit Act and OMB Circular A-133?
- b** If "Yes," did the organization undergo the required audit or audits? If the organization did not undergo the required audit or audits, explain why in Schedule O and describe any steps taken to undergo such audits.

	Yes	No
2a		✓
2b		✓
2c		
3a		✓
3b		

Part II **Support Schedule for Organizations Described in Sections 170(b)(1)(A)(iv) and 170(b)(1)(A)(vi)**
(Complete only if you checked the box on line 5, 7, or 8 of Part I.)

Section A. Public Support

Calendar year (or fiscal year beginning in) ►	(a) 2005	(b) 2006	(c) 2007	(d) 2008	(e) 2009	(f) Total
1 Gifts, grants, contributions, and membership fees received. (Do not include any "unusual grants.")						
2 Tax revenues levied for the organization's benefit and either paid to or expended on its behalf						
3 The value of services or facilities furnished by a governmental unit to the organization without charge						
4 Total. Add lines 1 through 3						
5 The portion of total contributions by each person (other than a governmental unit or publicly supported organization) included on line 1 that exceeds 2% of the amount shown on line 11, column (f)						
6 Public support. Subtract line 5 from line 4						

Section B. Total Support

Calendar year (or fiscal year beginning in) ►	(a) 2005	(b) 2006	(c) 2007	(d) 2008	(e) 2009	(f) Total
7 Amounts from line 4						
8 Gross income from interest, dividends, payments received on securities loans, rents, royalties and income from similar sources						
9 Net income from unrelated business activities, whether or not the business is regularly carried on						
10 Other income. Do not include gain or loss from the sale of capital assets (Explain in Part IV.)						
11 Total support. Add lines 7 through 10						
12 Gross receipts from related activities, etc. (see instructions)					12	
13 First five years. If the Form 990 is for the organization's first, second, third, fourth, or fifth tax year as a section 501(c)(3) organization, check this box and stop here						☐

Section C. Computation of Public Support Percentage

14 Public support percentage for 2009 (line 6, column (f) divided by line 11, column (f))	14	%
15 Public support percentage from 2008 Schedule A, Part II, line 14	15	%
16a 33⅓% support test—2009. If the organization did not check the box on line 13, and line 14 is 33⅓% or more, check this box and stop here. The organization qualifies as a publicly supported organization ☐		
b 33⅓% support test—2008. If the organization did not check a box on line 13 or 16a, and line 15 is 33⅓% or more, check this box and stop here. The organization qualifies as a publicly supported organization ☐		
17a 10%-facts-and-circumstances test—2009. If the organization did not check a box on line 13, 16a, or 16b, and line 14 is 10% or more, and if the organization meets the "facts-and-circumstances" test, check this box and stop here. Explain in Part IV how the organization meets the "facts-and-circumstances" test. The organization qualifies as a publicly supported organization ☐		
b 10%-facts-and-circumstances test—2008. If the organization did not check a box on line 13, 16a, 16b, or 17a, and line 15 is 10% or more, and if the organization meets the "facts-and-circumstances" test, check this box and stop here. Explain in Part IV how the organization meets the "facts-and-circumstances" test. The organization qualifies as a publicly supported organization ☐		
18 Private foundation. If the organization did not check a box on line 13, 16a, 16b, 17a, or 17b, check this box and see instructions ► ☐		

Part III Support Schedule for Organizations Described in Section 509(a)(2)
 (Complete only if you checked the box on line 9 of Part I.)

Section A. Public Support

Calendar year (or fiscal year beginning in) ►	(a) 2005	(b) 2006	(c) 2007	(d) 2008	(e) 2009	(f) Total
1 Gifts, grants, contributions, and membership fees received. (Do not include any "unusual grants.")	37000	166713	262989	605601	278783	1351086
2 Gross receipts from admissions, merchandise sold or services performed, or facilities furnished in any activity that is related to the organization's tax-exempt purpose		382				382
3 Gross receipts from activities that are not an unrelated trade or business under section 513						
4 Tax revenues levied for the organization's benefit and either paid to or expended on its behalf						
5 The value of services or facilities furnished by a governmental unit to the organization without charge						
6 Total. Add lines 1 through 5	37000	167095	262989	605601	278783	1351468
7a Amounts included on lines 1, 2, and 3 received from disqualified persons						
b Amounts included on lines 2 and 3 received from other than disqualified persons that exceed the greater of \$5,000 or 1% of the amount on line 13 for the year						
c Add lines 7a and 7b						
8 Public support. (Subtract line 7c from line 6.)						1351468

Section B. Total Support

Calendar year (or fiscal year beginning in) ►	(a) 2005	(b) 2006	(c) 2007	(d) 2008	(e) 2009	(f) Total
9 Amounts from line 6	37000	167095	262989	605601	278783	1351468
10a Gross income from interest, dividends, payments received on securities loans, rents, royalties and income from similar sources	119	94	97	68	73	451
b Unrelated business taxable income (less section 511 taxes) from businesses acquired after June 30, 1975						
c Add lines 10a and 10b	119	94	97	68	73	451
11 Net income from unrelated business activities not included in line 10b, whether or not the business is regularly carried on						
12 Other income. Do not include gain or loss from the sale of capital assets (Explain in Part IV.)						
13 Total support. (Add lines 9, 10c, 11, and 12.)	37119	167189	263086	605669	278856	1351919
14 First five years. If the Form 990 is for the organization's first, second, third, fourth, or fifth tax year as a section 501(c)(3) organization, check this box and stop here ☐						

Section C. Computation of Public Support Percentage

15 Public support percentage for 2009 (line 8, column (f) divided by line 13, column (f))	15	99.9 %
16 Public support percentage from 2008 Schedule A, Part III, line 15	16	99.9 %

Section D. Computation of Investment Income Percentage

17 Investment income percentage for 2009 (line 10c, column (f) divided by line 13, column (f))	17	0.1 %
18 Investment income percentage from 2008 Schedule A, Part III, line 17	18	0.1 %

- 19a 33 1/3 % support tests—2009.** If the organization did not check the box on line 14, and line 15 is more than 33 1/3 %, and line 17 is not more than 33 1/3 %, check this box and **stop here**. The organization qualifies as a publicly supported organization ► ☒
- b 33 1/3 % support tests—2008.** If the organization did not check a box on line 14 or line 19a, and line 16 is more than 33 1/3 %, and line 18 is not more than 33 1/3 %, check this box and **stop here**. The organization qualifies as a publicly supported organization ► ☐
- 20 Private foundation.** If the organization did not check a box on line 14, 19a, or 19b, check this box and see instructions ► ☐

Part IV **Supplemental Information.** Complete this part to provide the explanations required by Part II, line 10; Part II, line 17a or 17b; and Part III, line 12. Provide any other additional information. See instructions.

Area with horizontal dashed lines for supplemental information.

SCHEDULE L
(Form 990 or 990-EZ)

Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service

Transactions With Interested Persons

▶ **Complete if the organization answered**
"Yes" on Form 990, Part IV, line 25a, 25b, 26, 27, 28a, 28b, or 28c,
or Form 990-EZ, Part V, line 38a or 40b.
▶ **Attach to Form 990 or Form 990-EZ. ▶ See separate instructions.**

OMB No 1545-0047

2009

**Open To Public
Inspection**

Name of the organization

Rural Advantage

Employer identification number

86 : 1087174

Part I Excess Benefit Transactions (section 501(c)(3) and section 501(c)(4) organizations only).

Complete if the organization answered "Yes" on Form 990, Part IV, line 25a or 25b, or Form 990-EZ, Part V, line 40b.

1	(a) Name of disqualified person	(b) Description of transaction	(c) Corrected?	
			Yes	No
	None			

- 2 Enter the amount of tax imposed on the organization managers or disqualified persons during the year under section 4958 ▶ \$ _____
- 3 Enter the amount of tax, if any, on line 2, above, reimbursed by the organization ▶ \$ _____

Part II Loans to and/or From Interested Persons.

Complete if the organization answered "Yes" on Form 990, Part IV, line 26, or Form 990-EZ, Part V, line 38a.

(a) Name of interested person and purpose	(b) Loan to or from the organization?		(c) Original principal amount	(d) Balance due	(e) In default?		(f) Approved by board or committee?		(g) Written agreement?	
	To	From			Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
None										
Total ▶ \$ _____										

Part III Grants or Assistance Benefiting Interested Persons.

Complete if the organization answered "Yes" on Form 990, Part IV, line 27.

(a) Name of interested person	(b) Relationship between interested person and the organization	(c) Amount and type of assistance
None		

Part IV Business Transactions Involving Interested Persons.

Complete if the organization answered "Yes" on Form 990, Part IV, line 28a, 28b, or 28c.

(a) Name of interested person	(b) Relationship between interested person and the organization	(c) Amount of transaction	(d) Description of transaction	(e) Sharing of organization's revenues?	
				Yes	No
Linda Meschke [LM]	Sisseton Suites -	16800	LM owns Sisseton Suites		✓
	Office Building Rural				
	Advantage rents from				

**SCHEDULE O
(Form 990)**

Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service

Name of the organization

Rural Advantage

Supplemental Information to Form 990

Complete to provide information for responses to specific questions on
Form 990 or to provide any additional information.

► Attach to Form 990.

OMB No 1545-0047

2009

**Open to Public
Inspection**

Employer identification number

86

1087174

Form 990, Part VI, Line 11: The final Form 990 was emailed to members of the Board of directors for review.

Form 990, VI, Line 19: All public information is available for review upon request at the Rural Advantage office located
at 1243 Lake Avenue, Fairmont, MN.

Form 990, Part VI, Sec. A, 8b: We do not have sub committees so there are no records.

Form 990, Part VI, Sec.B, 12c: Regular contact with Board Members and awareness of their activities.

Rural Advantage filed and was granted a Time Extension for our 2009 Form 990. The reason for our request was that
some of our program related tabulations for 2009 had not been completed by the regular deadline.