



United States Department of Agriculture  
Rural Development

Rural Business-Cooperative Service • Rural Housing Service • Rural Utilities Service  
Washington, DC 20250

**COPY**

April 18, 2000

Mr. Michael Taliaferro  
Managing Editor and Assistant Publisher  
Warren Publishing, Inc.  
2115 Ward Court, NW  
Washington, DC 20037

Dear Mr. Taliaferro:

This letter concerns two of the television statistics published annually in Warren's Television & Cable Factbook (Factbook). Recently, my associate, John Huslig, discussed this in a telephone conversation with Richard Koch, the assistant managing editor and editorial director of your organization. Specifically, the Rural Utilities Service is interested in the definition of "homes" in the statistics "homes passed by cable television facilities" and "homes in franchised area."

On page D-10 of the 1999 Factbook, "homes in franchised area" is defined as the number of "housing units" in the area for which the cable system holds the franchise. (According to the Census definition, housing units include all habitable structures, occupied or not.) In their conversation, Mr. Koch told Mr. Huslig that the same definition applies to "homes passed by cable." In other words, the definition of "homes" in both statistics refers to housing units as defined by the Census, not households, which are occupied housing units.

RUS would appreciate your confirming that the "homes passed" statistic is the number of housing units passed by cable, as reported to your organization by the individual cable systems. Please call Mr. Huslig at 202-720-0665 if you have any questions in regard to this request.

Sincerely,

**GARY B. ALLAN**

GARY B. ALLAN  
Chief, Universal Services Branch  
Advanced Services Division  
Rural Utilities Service