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NATIONAL RURAL UTILITIES COOPERATIVE FINANCE CORP /DC/ Form 424B3 February 19, 2013

CALCULATION OF REGISTRATION FEE

Title of Each Class of Securities Offered 2.000% Corporates® Due February 15, 2020 Maximum Aggregate Offering Price \$956,000

Amount of Registration Fee(1)(2) \$130.40

- (1) Calculated in accordance with Rule 457(r) under the Securities Act of 1933.
- The amount in this column has been transmitted to the SEC in connection with the securities offered by means of this pricing supplement.

Filed Under Rule 424(b)(3), Registration Statement No. 333-177949 Pricing Supplement Number 279 Dated February 19, 2013 (To: Prospectus Dated November 14, 2011 and Prospectus Supplement Dated November 17, 2011)

CUSIP NumbePrincipal Selling Net CouponCoupon FrequencyMaturity 1st Coupon1st Gross Amount Price **Concession Proceeds** Type Rate Date Date Coupon Amoun 63743FQR0 \$956,000100.000%1.450% \$942,138.00 Fixed 2.000% MONTHLY 02/15/202003/15/2013\$1.28

Redemption Information: Non-Callable

National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Corp

Offering Dates: Monday, February 11, 2013 through National Rural Utilities Cooperative Tuesday, February 19, 2013 Trade Date: Tuesday, Finance Corp February 19, 2013 @12:00 PM ET Settlement Date: Prospectus Dated November 14, Friday, February 22, 2013 Minimum 2011

Denomination/Increments:\$1,000.00/\$1,000.00 Initial trades settle flat and clear SDFS: DTC Book Entry only DTC number: 0235 via RBC Dain Rauscher

Agents: Citigroup, Comerica Securities, J.J.B. Hilliard, W.L. Lyons, Inc., Morgan Stanley, UBS Investment Bank, Wells Fargo

If the maturity date or an interest payment date for any note is not a Business Day (as term is defined in Prospectus), principal, premium, if any, and interest

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for that note is paid on the next Business Day, and no interest will accrue from, and after, the maturity date or interest payment date.

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