

AGRICULTURE SECRETARY VILSACK ANNOUNCES \$62.5 MILLION FOR RENEWABLE ENERGY AND ENERGY EFFICIENCY LOANS AND GRANTS

WASHINGTON, Sept. 24, 2009 – Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack today announced that the department is providing \$62.5 million in loans and grants for 705 renewable energy and energy efficiency projects in 45 states and Puerto Rico under the Rural Energy for America Program (REAP), an important initiative to help rebuild and revitalize rural America.

“President Obama and I are committed to helping rural businesses become more energy efficient – it’s good for the economy, good for the environment, and good for the workers and customers who depend on the goods and services these businesses provide,” Vilsack said. “While the REAP grants will continue to provide an important jump start to a clean, renewable energy future, Congress must act to pass comprehensive energy and climate legislation to create the green jobs our economy needs and get our nation on the path to being truly energy independent.”

Renewable energy funding from USDA has helped many rural businesses. In South Dakota the following have been selected to receive:

- David Lammey - \$19,966 grant for a grain dryer replacement.
- Douglas Barlund - \$35,000 loan and a \$29,900 grant for a grain dryer replacement.
- Eastend Farms, Inc. - \$15,880 grant to install a geothermal system in a shop building.
- Glacial Lakes Hunting & Fishing Resort, LLC - \$13,010 grant for installation of a geothermal system.
- Impervious Energy Systems, LLC - \$100,000 loan and a \$50,000 grant for the construction of two wind turbines.
- James E. Mertens - \$19,070 grant for a grain dryer replacement.
- Jerald Ellefson - \$12,660 grant for installation of a geothermal system.
- John Fiegen - \$16,061 grant for a grain dryer replacement.
- LaBolt Farmers Grain Company - \$400,000 loan and \$241,760 grant for a grain dryer replacement.
- Molly’s Manor, LLC - \$5,313 grant for installation of a geothermal system.
- N-K Properties, Inc. - \$19,178 grant for installation of a small wind and geothermal system.
- Platte Locker Plant - \$8,720 grant for replacement of meat coolers, wiring, and lighting in locker plant.
- Randall Frederick - \$12,320 grant for grain dryer replacement.
- Randy Pierret - \$16,639 grant for installation of a geothermal system.
- Richard and Harold Koistinen - \$15,450 grant for grain dryer and grain handling replacement.
- Todd K. Johnson - \$45,000 loan and \$22,780 grant for grain dryer and handling replacement.
- Watertown Cooperative Elevator Association - \$125,000 loan and \$121,340 grant for grain dryer replacement.

REAP loan guarantees and grants can be used for renewable energy systems, energy efficiency improvements, feasibility studies and energy audits. More information on the REAP program, which was authorized under the 2008 Farm Bill, is at:

www.rurdev.usda.gov/rbs/farbill/index.html. Funding of each recipient is contingent upon the recipient meeting the conditions of the grant agreement.

USDA Rural Development's mission is to increase economic opportunity and improve the quality of life for rural residents. Rural Development fosters growth in homeownership, finances business development and supports the creation of critical community and technology infrastructure. Further information on rural programs is available at a local USDA Rural Development office or by visiting www.rurdev.usda.gov.

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