



NEWS RELEASE

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USDA AWARDS \$35 MILLION FOR RENEWABLE ENERGY AND ENERGY EFFICIENCY PROJECTS *Nebraska Receives Nearly \$2.3 Million for 170 Projects*

BISMARCK, North Dakota, August 27, 2008 —Agriculture Secretary Ed Schafer today announced that 639 individuals and businesses in 43 states and the Virgin Islands have been selected to receive \$35 million in grants and loan guarantees for renewable energy systems or to improve energy efficiency in farm and business operations.

“America is a world leader in renewable energy and energy efficiency,” Schafer said. “These projects are good for business, good for the economy, good for jobs, and they help secure more self-sufficient energy resources for our country.”

The grants and loan guarantees are being awarded through USDA Rural Development’s Section 9006 Renewable Energy Systems and Energy Efficiency Improvements program. The program provides financial assistance to agricultural producers and rural small businesses to support renewable energy projects across a wide range of technologies encompassing biomass (including anaerobic digesters), geothermal, hydrogen, solar and wind energy. It also provides support for energy efficiency improvements, helping recipients reduce energy consumption and improve operations. Of the \$35 million announced today, \$27.5 million are grants and \$7.4 million are guaranteed loans.

The funding will support a variety of energy-production and energy-saving efforts. Nebraska received \$2,102,441 in grants and \$163,338 in guaranteed loan funds that funded 4 renewable energy projects and 166 energy efficiency projects.

Nebraska renewable energy project grant recipients include Tony Johnson in Whitney who will use \$14,782 to install a 20 Kw wind turbine producing 21,881 kwh per year with a payback of 20.05 years, reducing his existing coal fired electricity use. Lawrence Harbour in Broken Bow received \$8,657 to install a geothermal system in a new building that will generate 3,182,000MBTU per year with a payback of 10.19 years. Glen Coble & Sons, Inc. of Mullen received \$14,725 to install 5 small wind turbines on their ranch that will produce 78,840 kwh per year with a payback of 10.3 years. C-Minus, Inc. of Auburn will use \$4,601 to install a 1.7KW Skystream wind turbine that will generate 10,800 kwh per year with a payback of 9.5 years.

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Nebraska combination loan and grant recipients are Darrell Aerts of David City who has been selected to receive \$57,590 to install 10 biomass corn stoves in poultry barns that will replace existing propane use by producing 3,600MBTU per year with a payback of 3.3 years. James Knust in Atkinson will use \$37,424 to make energy efficiency improvements to a farm grain drying system that is expected to lower energy costs by 39.7 percent with a payback of 4.37 years. Double K Farms of Valentine is the recipient of \$131,768 that will convert 16 diesel irrigation motors to electric, which is expected to reduce energy costs by 65.8 percent with a payback of 1.64 years. Todd Danhauer of Marquette to utilize \$99,994 to make energy efficiency improvements to on farm batch grain dryers by converting to an energy efficient continuous flow dryer with cooling bin and drying floor that is expected to lower energy costs by 52.3 percent with a payback of 20.1 years.

Funding of individual recipients is contingent upon their meeting the conditions of the award agreement. For a complete list of recipients go to:

<http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/rd/newsroom/2008/08-27-2008-0996rl.pdf>.

USDA Rural Development's mission is to increase economic opportunity and improve the quality of life for rural residents. Rural Development has invested more than \$90 billion since 2001 for equity and technical assistance to finance and foster growth in homeownership, business development, and critical community and technology infrastructure. More than 1.7 million jobs have been created or saved through these investments. Further information on rural programs is available at a local USDA Rural Development office or by visiting USDA Rural Development's website at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov>.

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