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Delaware —Rural Business & Cooperative Service

Alternative Energy

Turning Current into Currency Helps Dover Equestrian Center Save Money on Power Bill

Outline Of Need:

Gambler's Choice, on 55 acres west of Dover, Delaware, is a full service Equestrian Center and boarding facility. The center is home to Delaware State University (1890 Land Grant Institution) Hornets Equestrian Team. The owner of the center, Mr. John Melnick) was in need of a clean energy source to power the stables for the next 30 years.

How Rural Development Helped:

In January 2012, USDA Rural Development provided a \$34,271 grant through its Rural Energy for America Program (REAP). The funding, which covered 25



April 23, 2012, two members of the Hornets Equestrian Team in front of the barn with roof mounted solar panels.

percent of the cost, enabled the business to offset electricity usage with the installation of a roof mounted 28.52 kW solar array 124 (230 watt) solar panels on a barn at the center.

Fast Facts

Program: REAP

Congressional District: DE— At Large

Investment: \$34,271 Grant

Partners: State of Delaware—Green Energy Program
\$10,000; 30% Federal Grant in Lieu of Tax Credit \$41,126
Total Project Costs: \$137,085

Demographics: Dover, Kent County

Impact:

- Home to 1890 Land Grant (Delaware State University) Hornets Equestrian Team.
- The system is expected to pay for itself in 3 years, and could be shorter, depending on the value of Delaware SRECs..
- Protection for the environment.
- Local electric service provider Delaware Electric Cooperative.

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The Results:

In observance of Earth Day, a ribbon cutting ceremony was held on April 23, 2012. The solar array is expected to produce 32,0000 kW hours of electricity per year, which is enough to cover all the electricity Gambler's Choice uses on an annual basis, making the business a net zero energy user. The array offsets over 52,000 pounds of carbon dioxide on an annual basis.

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