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Pennsylvania—Rural Business & Cooperative Service

Alternative Energy

Valley Enterprises Harvests Solar Energy On Working Farm

Outline Of Need:

Valley Enterprises in Fairfield, Adams County wanted to install a solar panel array on their 230 acre working farm to reduce its electric use throughout several facilities within its property.

How Rural Development Helped:

USDA Rural Development was able to aid Valley Enterprises with a \$20,000 Rural Energy for America (REAP) grant to install a ground-mounted solar panel array.

The Results:

Through Rural Development grant funds, Valley Enterprises was able to install multiple solar panels for renewable energy production. The solar system consists of 58 rows of PVC modules. The system not only uses renewable energy to satisfy all of its facilities electrical needs, but there is also an excess amount of energy that can be sold back to the grid.

In the previous year Valley Enterprises was using approximately 48,000 kWh. With the installation of so-



Valley Enterprises has installed 58 rows of solar panel arrays that produce enough electricity to run the entire farm.

lar panels, the projected outcome of the renewable energy is 49,392 kWh. By using the annual projection and the historical values, Valley Enterprises will be producing 103 percent of its current usage.

USDA Rural Development's REAP grant awarded to Valley Enterprises provides a great example of how these funds are being allocated to make agricultural energy projects possible. Since the goal of this funding is for Rural America to become more energy independent, this renewable energy project will contribute to that goal.

Fast Facts

Program: Rural Energy For America Program

Investment: \$55,514 in grants

Congressional District: PA-19

Partners: \$181,016—Borrower

Demographics: Population of Fairfield: 486

Impact: The solar panels will generate enough energy for the entire farm; any remaining energy will be sold back to the local electric provider.

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