



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

USDA Rural Development Participates in Ribbon Cutting Ceremonies at J&G Regional Services' New Energy-Efficient Facility in Spencer *Rural Development Provided \$27,250 Grant to Assist with Geothermal Heating and Cooling System in Building*

SPENCER, Iowa – September 29, 2009 – Bill Menner, USDA Rural Development State Director in Iowa, today participated in ribbon cutting ceremonies for J&G Regional Services' recently completed energy-efficient building in Spencer.

“We are excited that we were able to assist with the construction of this new facility which uses many energy-saving technologies and techniques,” Menner said. “J & G Regional Services is an excellent example of what rural businesses can do to help reduce our nation's dependence on foreign oil.”

In 2008, J&G Regional Services received a \$27,250 grant from USDA Rural Development to help install a geothermal heating and cooling system in its new facility. Along with geothermal heating and cooling and energy-efficient lighting inside the facility, the nearby grounds also include a rain garden, permeable pavers, native prairie grasses and wild flowers.

J&G Regional Services provides engine repair services and specializes in two-cylinder John Deere tractors.

The company received funds through USDA Rural Development's energy programs which provide loan guarantees and grants for renewable energy systems, energy efficiency improvements, feasibility studies and energy audits.

So far this year more than 300 businesses and producers in Iowa have received \$35 million in loan guarantees and grants through this Rural Energy for America Program, or REAP. USDA Rural Development is currently taking applications for projects that will be awarded funds in 2010.

A popular use of the program has been for producers who have installed new more energy-efficient grain drying systems on their farm. Other uses have included geothermal systems, wind generation, as well adding insulation, improving lighting, or pretty much anything that will improve a building's energy efficiency.

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“This program can make a big difference to rural small businesses or producers looking to finance a renewable energy system or make energy-saving improvements to their facility or equipment,” Menner said.

During the past year USDA Rural Development helped a record number of Iowans receive funding for economic development projects and quality of life improvements. The agency’s investment in Iowa helped create or retain 10,000 jobs, aided 1,600 families in buying their own homes and assisted more than 120 communities in improving community facilities and upgrading local infrastructure.

USDA Rural Development is an equal opportunity lender with a variety of grant and direct and guaranteed loan programs for single and multi-family housing, community facilities, water and sewer development and business and industry programs.

Along with its regular programs, the agency has access to more than \$115 million in funds through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) to be used in Iowa.

Deadline to apply for this special funding is September 30, 2010. Eligible uses of the funds include home mortgages, improvements to community facility and infrastructure projects such health clinics, community centers, public safety buildings and water and wastewater systems, as well as businesses and economic organizations looking to create jobs in rural communities.

USDA Rural Development’s mission is to deliver quality programs in a way that will support increasing economic opportunity and improve the quality of life of rural residents. Rural Development’s portfolio includes assistance for homeownership, business development, and critical community and technology infrastructure.

Eleven USDA Rural Development offices in Iowa serve the 1.9 million Iowans living in rural communities. You can get more information by contacting Rural Development’s office in Storm Lake at 712-732-1851, or by visiting Rural Development’s web site at www.rurdev.usda.gov/ia.

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