



# NEWS RELEASE

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## **USDA Rural Development Announces Selections for *Rural Energy for America Program Loans and Grants* *Thirteen Kansas Energy Efficiency Projects Announced***

**Topeka** – USDA Rural Development State Director Patty Clark congratulated thirteen Kansas applicants for being selected to receive a total of \$675,054 in loans and grants to make energy efficiency improvements and conduct a feasibility study for a renewable energy system. The funds are administered through USDA Rural Development's *Rural Energy for America Program (REAP)* which was established in the 2008 Farm Bill and is not part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

In addition to the \$675,054 that USDA Rural Development is providing to fund the 13 projects, recipients will invest \$807,472 from other sources.

Funding of each recipient is contingent upon the recipient meeting the conditions of the grant or loan agreement.

In Finney County, George Rapp was selected to receive a \$42,200 grant for his energy efficiency project. George uses 5 natural gas engines and 1 diesel engine to power the water pumps to irrigate with center pivot systems. These will be replaced with 6 electric motors and variable frequency drives for an annual energy savings of 83%. USDA Rural Development funding will be leveraged with additional resources of \$126,600.

The Mary Ensz Trust – Ensz Farm Irrigation project in McPherson County was selected to receive a \$33,800 energy efficiency grant. The farm is currently gravity irrigating a 100 acre gated pipe system with a diesel engine connected to a deep well turbine pump. This will be converted to sub-surface drip irrigation, replacing the main well pump, a tail water pit pump, and a new booster pump. This will create an estimated annual energy savings of 82%. USDA Rural Development funding will be combined with an applicant contribution of \$121,413.

An annual energy savings of 81% is expected by Westwind Farms, Inc. in Stanton County when they convert 3 natural gas and 1 diesel engine for irrigation to electric motors with variable frequency drives. Concern regarding the long term availability of natural gas from the current source caused consideration for a more reliable source of energy. The project was selected for a \$44,728 grant with an applicant contribution of \$44,728.

A project in Gove County by Galen Neher was selected to receive a \$9,240 grant to replace a natural gas motor to turn a pump for irrigation of crops. The replacement will be an electric motor with a variable frequency drive which will save significant energy and maintenance. It is expected to have an annual energy savings of 76.3%. USDA Rural Development funding will be leveraged with an applicant contribution of \$27,720.

Tail Wind, Inc., also of Stanton County, was selected for a loan of \$79,230 and grant of \$39,615 for a similar project. They will be converting 4 natural gas irrigation engines to electric motors with variable frequency drives for an anticipated annual energy savings of 75.9%. USDA Rural Development funding will be combined with an applicant contribution of \$39,615.

***(continued)***

## Press Release

### Page 2

Jon Nelson of Johnson, KS was selected to receive a guaranteed loan of \$118,282 and a grant of \$59,141 for Freedom Farms, Inc. to replace natural gas or diesel irrigation engines with electric motors and variable frequency drives. The pressure of natural gas at the production point was dropping and would not provide an adequate supply of gas to produce maximum production of water from the well. Also, the quality of the gas was affecting the efficiency of the engine and caused excessive wear. The annual energy savings is expected to be 75.1%. USDA Rural Development funding will be combined with an applicant contribution of \$59,141.

In Ford County, Hubbell & Hubbell, Inc. was selected for a loan of \$22,457 and grant of \$11,229 for their energy efficiency improvements to replace 1 diesel irrigation engine with an electric motor with variable frequency drive, plus installing a variable frequency drive on an existing electric motor. The annual energy savings is expected to be 65.7%. USDA Rural Development funding will be combined with an applicant contribution of \$11,228.

Phil and Mary Schmidt of Buhler, KS in Harvey County was selected for a grant of \$24,200 to change from center pivot sprinkler system to more efficient sub-surface drip irrigation system which will require significantly less horsepower by the pump, reducing energy consumption and increase crop production. The annual energy savings is expected to be 48%.

One of the recipients, McCoy V, Inc. of Fort Scott has been selected to receive a \$6,929 grant to replace an existing 20 plus year old roof which has decking warped, deteriorating, and cracks in the overlay. The new energy efficient roof improvements will contain a reflective membrane and have an energy savings of 26%. USDA Rural Development funding will be combined with an applicant contribution of \$20,787

In Labette County, Altamont Grocery was selected to receive a \$3,589 grant to make energy efficiency improvements. The building built in 1940 has had minimal upgrading since original construction. The project will replace the heating and air conditioning system, cooler doors, and freezer doors. The annual energy savings is expected to be 25.9%. USDA Rural Development funding will be combined with an applicant contribution of \$10,767.

Marilyn Mavity in Cunningham has been selected to receive a \$2,642 grant to assist in the energy efficiency improvements of the FitzSimmons Insurance Building. The existing store front and inefficient windows will be removed and replaced with a new store front, energy efficient windows, and additional insulation. The annual energy savings is expected to be 24.7%. USDA Rural Development funding will be combined with an applicant contribution of \$7,924.00.

Morning Star Farms just north of Greensburg in Kiowa County was selected for a grant of \$49,515 to assist with a wind energy project. The USDA Rural Development funding will be combined with an applicant contribution of \$148,545.

A project near Atwood in Rawlins County by Danken Energy, LLC was selected for a grant of \$38,800. The USDA Rural Development funding will be combined with an applicant contribution of \$116,400 to complete a feasibility study for a proposed 300 megawatt wind project.

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.

For additional information regarding all USDA Rural Development programs, contact the Agency at 785-271-2700 or visit the Agency's Kansas website at [www.rurdev.usda.gov/ks](http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/ks)

***USDA Rural Development – Committed to the future of rural communities.***

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