



# NEWS RELEASE

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## **Ten Western Kansas Projects Receive Grant Selection From USDA Rural Development *Rural Energy for America Program* *Grocery and Irrigation Farming To Benefit***

**Hays** – USDA Rural Development Area Director Kent Colwell, along with Area Specialist Brandon Prough of the Hays Area Office, congratulated 10 Kansas applicants for being selected to receive a total of \$100,528 in loans and grants to make energy efficiency improvements. 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 USDA Rural Development funds, recipients will invest \$301,581 from other sources. Funding of each recipient is contingent upon the recipient meeting the conditions of the grant agreement.

Area Specialist Brandon Prough commented, "The selection of these 10 projects for funding is exciting news for the area. Not only will these 10 recipients receive a grant to cover 25% of the cost of the energy efficient improvements, but they will also be saving energy and ultimately saving money. We hope to continue to grow this program and assist even more ag producers and small businesses in the future."

Kens IGA of Dighton, KS was selected to receive a \$1,985 grant for energy efficiency improvements. Kens IGA is a retail food store that is open twelve hours a day six days a week and seven hours on Sundays. The existing general lighting is eight and four foot T-12 fluorescent open fixtures, and by replacing the current lighting system with new T-8 low wattage lamps and electronic ballasts, it is anticipated the annual energy savings will be 34%. USDA Rural Development funding will be combined with an applicant contribution of \$5,955.

Larry Kepley of Ulysses was selected to receive a \$5,941 grant to replace one natural gas engine for an irrigation system with one electric motor and variable frequency drive for an annual energy savings of 89%. USDA Rural Development funding will be combined with an applicant contribution of \$17,823.

Bryne Sullins of Moscow was selected to receive a grant of \$13,227 to replace one natural gas engine and one diesel engine for his irrigation systems with two electric motors and variable frequency drives for an annual energy savings of 87.6%. USDA Rural Development funding will be combined with an applicant contribution of \$39,683.

Rodney Koehn of Ulysses was selected to receive a \$5,831 grant to replace one natural gas engine for an irrigation system with one electric motor and variable frequency drive for an annual energy savings of 82%. USDA Rural Development funding will be combined with an applicant contribution of \$17,491.

Gary Mostrom of Hugoton was selected to receive a \$18,087 grant to replace two natural gas engines with two electric motors and variable frequency drives for his irrigation systems. Gary anticipates an annual energy savings of 82%. USDA Rural Development funding will be leveraged with an applicant contribution of \$54,262.

Also from Ulysses, Darcy Nightingale was selected to receive a grant of \$10,137 to replace one natural gas engine for an irrigation system with one electric motor and variable frequency drive for an annual energy savings of 75%. USDA Rural Development funding will be combined with an applicant contribution of \$30,410.

J & T Stonestreet Farms in Seward County was selected to receive a \$11,029 grant for conversion from natural gas engines to electric motors with variable frequency drives for three irrigation systems. The three systems will collectively have an energy savings of 74%. An applicant contribution of \$33,086 will be combined with USDA Rural Development funding.

Kells Farms of Satanta was selected to receive a \$7,818 grant to replace one natural gas engine with one electric motor and variable frequency drive for their irrigation system. Kells Farms anticipate an annual energy savings of 70%. USDA Rural Development funding will be leveraged with an applicant contribution of \$23,453.

Another Ulysses applicant selected to receive a grant is Jerrell Nightingale. \$18,420 will be combined with the applicant contribution of \$55,261 to replace two natural gas engines with two electric motors and variable frequency drives for his irrigation systems. The anticipated annual energy savings will be 62%.

Donald Beesley of Hugoton was selected to receive a \$8,053 grant to replace one diesel irrigation engine with one electric motor and variable frequency drive for his irrigation system, with an anticipated annual energy savings of 57.9%. USDA Rural Development funding will be leveraged with an applicant contribution of \$24,157.

Twenty-three renewable energy and energy efficiency projects in Kansas were recently announced by Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack, for an aggregate total of \$1,320,373 in loans and grants, with leveraged funds of \$1,578,302.

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)

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