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USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT FUNDS RURAL ENERGY PROJECTS Application Deadline is July 31, 2009

ALEXANDRIA, June 22, 2009 – The application deadline is fast approaching for farmers and rural small businesses seeking funding from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) to finance renewable energy or energy efficiency projects.

USDA Rural Development provides grants and loans under the Renewable Energy for America Program (REAP), which was authorized by the 2008 Farm Bill. Applications for this year's program are due by July 31, 2009.

Farmers and rural small businesses can apply for government-guaranteed loans to cover 75 percent of a project's cost, up to \$25 million. Grants are available to cover 25 percent of a project's cost—up to \$500,000 for renewable energy projects and up to \$250,000 for energy efficiency projects.

Applications can be filed electronically at www.grants.gov or by mail to USDA Rural Development, Whitney National Bank Building, 905 Jefferson Street, Suite 320, Lafayette, Louisiana 70501-7913, Attention: Kevin Boone.

For more information on the Renewable Energy for America Program, visit: <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/la/REAPinfo.htm>, or call Kevin Boone at (337) 262-6601, extension 133.

USDA Rural Development provides a full range of rural development credit services in rural Louisiana. Area Offices are located in Monroe, Natchitoches, Lafayette, and Amite; and the State Office is located in Alexandria. For more information on USDA Rural Development's loan and grant programs, visit <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/la>.

USDA Rural Development is an equal opportunity lender, provider, and employer. Complaints of discrimination should be sent to: USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Washington, DC 20250-9140.

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