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United States Department of Agriculture • Rural Development

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RURAL DEVELOPMENT TAKING APPLICATIONS TO CONDUCT RENEWABLE ENERGY FEASIBILITY STUDIES

BISMARCK, Sept. 7, 2010 – USDA Rural Development State Director Jasper Schneider today announced the availability of funding under the Rural Energy for America Program (REAP) to conduct feasibility studies for renewable energy systems for agriculture producers and rural small businesses.

“North Dakota has great potential for developing new sources of renewable energy and these studies will help identify new energy opportunities,” said Schneider. “A feasibility study is used to determine the viability and profitability of a proposed energy project; ultimately, helping small businesses and farmers secure financing for the project.

A feasibility study is a report by an independent third-party that analyzes a business venture’s prospects for success. It impartially lays out the features of the business plan and critiques them, analyzing the strengths and weaknesses of the venture, and assessing its overall feasibility.

Eligible feasibility studies for renewable energy systems include projects that will produce energy from wind, solar, biomass, geothermal, hydro power and hydrogen-based sources. The energy to be produced includes heat, electricity or fuel. For all projects, the system must be located in a rural area, must be technically feasible and must be owned by the applicant. More information is available by visiting http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/BCP_ReapGrants.html.

Under this notice, USDA is making \$3 million available to conduct feasibility studies. Grants are limited to \$50,000 per study and the application deadline is October 5, 2010. The funding announced today is authorized under the Food, Conservation and Energy Act of 2008.

Further information on rural programs is available at a local USDA Rural Development office or by visiting USDA Rural Development’s web site at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov>.

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