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**For Immediate Release:**

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## **SCHNEIDER ANNOUNCES RENEWABLE ENERGY FUNDING**

**Bismarck, October 5, 2009 . . . Five North Dakota farms and businesses are among the recipients of grants and loans announced recently by USDA Secretary Tom Vilsack, according to North Dakota's USDA Rural Development State Director Jasper Schneider.**

The funding came through USDA's Renewable Energy for America Program (REAP), which provides grants and loan guarantees to farms and rural small businesses for renewable energy systems, energy efficiency improvements, feasibility studies and energy audits. More information on the REAP program, which was authorized under the 2008 Farm Bill, is at: [www.rurdev.usda.gov/rbs/farmbill/index.html](http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/rbs/farmbill/index.html).

"This round of national funding was extremely competitive and I congratulate all of our North Dakota recipients on their success," Jasper Schneider, state director for USDA Rural Development in North Dakota, said. "The renewable energy and energy efficiency program is an effort that is beneficial to both recipients and the general public. The funding helps our farmers and rural businesses improve operations and save money, while contributing to a cleaner environment for all of us."

- Michael Gussiaas, of New Rockford, was selected to receive a loan grant combination for \$147,679 to purchase a new energy efficient grain dryer, which will reduce the energy consumption by 60 percent.
- Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative, of Flasher, was selected to receive a \$38,886 grant to purchase 28 solar powered pumping systems and will install in remote pasture locations. The solar powered systems will generate 14,000 kwh of energy annually.
- In Dickinson, Tracey and Jackie Hoff have been selected to receive a \$28,389 grant to install new energy efficient lighting, new front and rear doors, a new energy efficient boiler furnace, and zone and control valves. Rural Development's grant will enable the Hoff's to lower their electric bill by more than 38 percent.
- Another example, Terence Brock, in Valley City, was selected to receive a \$12,500 grant to install a 10 kilowatt wind turbine at his farm. The system will generate 24,000 kilowatts of electricity and reduce the farm's energy usage by nearly 60 percent annually.

- In Wahpeton, Frank Steger received a loan grant combination for \$187,450 to purchase a more energy efficient grain dryer for his farm. The new dryer will lower the farm's energy usage substantially.

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.

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

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