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NEWS RELEASE

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USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT HELPS FARMERS AND RURAL BUSINESSES BECOME MORE ENERGY EFFICIENT

BISMARCK, November 9, 2010 – USDA Rural Development State Director Jasper Schneider announced today that more than \$400,000 in loans and grants have been awarded to ten recipients in North Dakota for renewable energy and energy efficiency projects under the Rural Energy for America Program (REAP).

“These awards will improve the energy efficiency of farmers, ranchers and rural businesses for years to come,” said Schneider. “The recipients increase profitability and create new opportunities for economic growth.”

REAP provides funding for projects such as replacing outdated equipment, obtaining energy audits and incorporating energy-saving practices into business operations. The following is a breakdown of North Dakota’s award recipients:

- Blue Hill Ranch Feedlot, Inc.: \$100,000 loan and \$50,000 grant. The funds will be used to purchase and install a 50 kwh wind turbine that is estimated to produce 118,585 kwh per year.
- Michael German: \$20,000 grant. The funds will be used to purchase and install a 20 kwh wind turbine that is estimated to generate 65,311 kwh of energy per year.
- Daran Sagvold: \$17,455 grant. The funds will be used to purchase and install 56 solar panels each at 230 watts. The project will generate 25,002 kwh of energy per year.
- Various Ventures, LP: \$10,821 grant. The funds will be used to purchase and install a geothermal system to replace a coal fired boiler.
- Six awards to funds will replace old, inefficient grain dryers with new energy efficient dryers. These projects will produce energy savings ranging from 27 to 55 percent. The recipients are:
 - Kevin Matejcek: \$19,045 grant.
 - Loren David: \$36,832 grant.
 - Mark Olson: \$48,950 grant.
 - Steve Kyllo: \$49,999 loan and \$49,999 grant.
 - Steven Heger: \$20,000 grant.
 - Steven Strege: \$10,750 grant.

REAP funding can be used for renewable energy systems, energy efficiency improvements, feasibility studies, energy audits and renewable energy development assistance. More information on the REAP program, which was authorized under the 2008 Farm Bill, is at: http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/BCP_ReapResEei.html.

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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