

Contact: Jane Grant (800) 582-7584, Ext. 2037.



Committed to the future of rural communities.

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

# **Rural Development taking energy grant applications**

**BISMARCK, December 29, 2009** - North Dakota Rural Development State Director Jasper Schneider announced that USDA Rural Development is taking applications for grants and loan guarantees from ag producers and rural small businesses to install renewable energy systems, make energy efficiency improvements or conduct feasibility studies for a renewable energy system.

The funds are administered through Rural Development's Rural Energy for American Program (REAP).

“The REAP applications are now being accepted for FY2010,” said Schneider. “Some Renewable energy projects include large and small wind turbines, solar, grain dryers, geothermal systems, energy efficient refrigerators or freezers, heating and cooling systems, efficient lighting systems and methane digesters.”

The maximum grant for renewable energy systems is 25 percent of eligible project costs, not to exceed \$500,000. Energy efficiency improvement projects are grant eligible for up to 25 percent of eligible project costs, not to exceed \$250,000.

The maximum loan guarantee is 75 percent of eligible project costs, not to exceed \$25 million. Combination loan guarantees and grants are available.

Applications are being accepted and can be obtained by calling Dennis Rodin 701-530-2068 or by visiting the office at 220 East Rosser Avenue, Room 211, Bismarck, ND 58501.

For more information on this program, please visit our Web page at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/rbs/busp/REAPEA.htm>

#