



# NEWS RELEASE

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## **AGRICULTURE SECRETARY VILSACK ANNOUNCES \$62.5 MILLION FOR RENEWABLE ENERGY AND ENERGY EFFICIENCY LOANS AND GRANTS**

### **Farabaugh Farms in Cambria County selected for \$19,884 Grant**

WASHINGTON, Sept. 30, 2009 – Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack recently announced that the department is providing \$62.5 million in loans and grants for 705 renewable energy and energy efficiency projects in 45 states and Puerto Rico under the Rural Energy for America Program (REAP), an important initiative to help rebuild and revitalize rural America.

“President Obama and I are committed to helping rural businesses become more energy efficient – it’s good for the economy, good for the environment, and good for the workers and customers who depend on the goods and services these businesses provide,” Vilsack said. “While the REAP grants will continue to provide an important jump start to a clean, renewable energy future, Congress must act to pass comprehensive energy and climate legislation to create the green jobs our economy needs and get our nation on the path to being truly energy independent.”

Renewable energy funding from USDA has helped many rural businesses. In Pennsylvania, USDA has selected Floyd M. Farabaugh Farms, a 2000 acre potato, grain and hay crop farm in Ebensburg, Cambria County, to receive a grant of \$19,884 for the purchase and installation of an energy efficient portable grain dryer. The new grain dryer will replace an existing diesel powered dryer reducing the amount of propane use by 50% and saving the farm \$25, 571 per year. The farm has been in the Farabaugh family since 1956 and continually strives to become more energy efficient, clean and renewable.

“Renewable energy is essential to the quality of life in any rural community,” said Tom Williams, Pennsylvania State Director. “And, the grant for the Farabaugh Farm helps to demonstrate Rural Development’s commitment to the future of rural communities such as Ebensburg,” added Williams.

REAP loan guarantees and grants can be used 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). Funding of each recipient is contingent upon the recipient meeting the conditions of the grant agreement. The following is a complete list of REAP recipients announced today.

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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 [www.rurdev.usda.gov](http://www.rurdev.usda.gov).

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