



# NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture • Rural Development  
World Wide Web: <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov>

---

Date: April 12, 2004

Contact Name: Scooter Brockett

Phone Number: 254.742.9711

Email: [Scooter.Brockette@tx.usda.gov](mailto:Scooter.Brockette@tx.usda.gov)

TX.052.04

## **USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT TO PARTICIPATE IN RURAL ALLIANCE FOR RENEWABLE ENERGY CONFERENCE**

**Temple, TX April 13, 2004** - - A first of its kind event called RARE Opportunities – Economic Development Forum & Expo, organized by the Rural Alliance for Renewable Energy (RARE), will be held at the Amarillo Civic Center, Regency Room, on April 30 and May 1. The event will address “how renewable energy can benefit you, your business and your Panhandle community.” Forum sessions will be held from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m. on the 30<sup>th</sup>, with workshop sessions running from 9 a.m. to noon on the 1<sup>st</sup>. Forum registration is \$25 or \$10 for workshop sessions only. A registration brochure with agenda is available on the web at [www.treia.org](http://www.treia.org).

Bryan Daniel, State Director for USDA Rural Development said, “As part of our commitment to the future of rural communities, we can play a part in expanding alternative energy sources that will help continue job expansion in rural areas as well as increase energy independence for our country.”

Pat Liles, Business Program Director for USDA Rural Development in Texas, will participate in one of Saturday’s workshops. Liles will present information on renewable energy programs at the “Federal Programs and Incentives – USDA and USDOE Programs and Resources” workshop. This program allows USDA Rural Development to make loans, loan guarantees, and grants to farmers, ranchers, and rural small businesses to purchase renewable energy systems and make energy efficiency improvements.

The Expo segment of this event runs from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Friday, from 9 a.m. until 2 p.m. on Saturday, and is open to the public at no charge. It will feature companies, agencies and organizations that bring renewable energy products, services, information and programs with a focus on the Panhandle. This will be an opportunity to view the latest solar and wind power equipment for the home, farm or ranch, meet developers of large wind projects, and connect with supporters of increased use of renewable energy.

On Friday, April 30, the Forum will include a full day of plenary sessions addressing utility-scale wind market development and transmission issues, ethanol and biodiesel production and market development, methane from confined animal feeding operations, and home, farm, and ranch-scale solar energy, wind energy and geothermal heat pump applications.