

PRESS RELEASE

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The Rural Energy for America (REAP) Program, through the USDA Rural Development (RD), offers grants, guaranteed loans, and combination grant/guaranteed loans to help agricultural producers and rural small businesses. These funds can be used to purchase and install renewable energy systems (geo-thermal) and make energy efficiency improvements (grain dryers, insulation, windows, updated HVAC systems, etc...) in rural areas. If you are an agricultural producer or rural business and need assistance with energy savings this is a wonderful grant program.

Grants are also available to eligible entities to conduct and promote energy audits and provide recommendations and information on how to improve the energy efficiency of the operations of the agricultural producers and rural small businesses; and to use renewable energy technologies and resources in the operations.

Helpful information on the Section 9007 program can be found at: www.rurdev.usda.gov/ia/rbs.html click on the red box in the chart--titled Section 9007 Rural Energy for America (REAP) Program or visit www.rurdev.usda.gov/ia to contact your local USDA RD office. The Iowa Lakes RC&D serves as a grant writer and are available to assist with the process and ensure that your grant application is submitted complete and correct. The notification and deadline has not been announced; however, grants can be submitted using the 2010 application form and information.

If you have questions, or need additional information, please call the Iowa USDA RD State Office at (515) 284-4714 or Contact Sheriffa Jones with the Iowa Lakes RC&D at (712) 262-2083 or sjones@iowalakesrcd.org if you have questions about this grant or need grant writing assistance.

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