

## What's Developing

REAP (Rural Energy for America Program) is a 25% grant through USDA Rural Development that is available to farmers, ranchers, and small businesses. The deadline for the upcoming grant application is October 31.

Criteria for the grant are that the business, farm, or ranch must be located in a rural area and nonprofits and local government are not eligible.

The purpose of the program is energy efficiency and energy savings. Some examples of eligible projects are grain dryers for farmers, lighting and coolers for grocery stores, and geothermal systems. The grants may be for purchasing renewable energy systems and to make energy efficiency improvements through replacements.

For further information about REAP grants or other grants that are available through USDA Rural Development, contact Darlene Bresson, Loan Specialist/Rural Energy Coordinator at the US Dept. of Agriculture in Watertown at 605-886-8202, ext. 120.

*Wanda Jundt*