



September 10, 2008

During our regular grower meeting Thursday morning, 8:00 am at the Toledo Botanical Garden, we will be presenting grant & loan information on the **Rural Energy for America Program (REAP)**. It provides funding to rural small businesses and agricultural producers to help install renewable energy systems or energy efficiency improvements with grants and loan guarantee programs. Renewable energy systems eligible under this program include wind, solar, biomass, anaerobic digestion, and geothermal.

Energy efficiency improvements cut costs by reducing the energy consumption of buildings or processes. The Notice of Funds Availability (NOFA) is typically announced in the spring, but planning can start earlier for best results. Our goal is to help agricultural producers and rural small businesses apply for and win funds through educational outreach and application assistance.

Information packets will be provided but we know from our successful natural gas program that this is not enough. It's only the beginning. A certain amount of time and effort will need to be provided to those grower candidates throughout the entire application process. We are committed to that effort.

Our presenter is **Andy Olsen**, a Policy Advocate responsible for field organizing and constituency building for ELPC's Farm Bill - Clean Energy Development program. Mr. Olsen managed the Governor's Alternative Fuels Task Force and led several collaborative renewable energy efforts in Wisconsin. He has served as a Dane County Supervisor, Dane County Lakes & Watershed Commission member, and as the Board President of RENEW Wisconsin. *M.S., Energy Analysis & Policy, University of Wisconsin, 1996; B.A., Economics, Northwestern University, 1983.*

Also in attendance to answer specific questions during and after the presentation will be installers in the wind, solar and geo-thermal alternative energy fields.

Hope to see everyone in attendance Thursday morning. It will be a valuable first step in considering whether this grant opportunity is right for you and your operation.

Thanks,

Joe Perlaky
University of Toledo – Program Manager, Maumee Valley Growers