



NEWS RELEASE

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MICHIGAN FARMERS & SMALL BUSINESSES RECEIVE USDA FUNDING FOR RENEWABLE ENERGY AND ENERGY EFFICIENCY PROJECTS

East Lansing, Michigan September 8, 2008 – USDA Rural Development Director for Michigan Gene DeRossett today announced ten Michigan Farmers and Rural Small Businesses received \$317,612 in Renewable Energy Systems & Energy Efficiency Improvement grants and guaranteed loans for fiscal year 2008 under the USDA Rural Development Renewable Energy Program (Section 9006).

“USDA Rural Development is proud to take a leading role in improving rural energy efficiency,” said DeRossett. “These investments are also helping to revitalize Michigan’s economy through developing alternative energy resources.”

The Michigan recipients that were selected are:

<u>Recipient</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Technology Type</u>
Collins & Company	Thompsonville	Small Wind Turbine, Solar, & Biodiesel
Robert Cook	Sunfield	Grain Dryer Replacement
Country Mill Farms, LLC	Charlotte	Biomass Boiler for Farm Market
Davis Machine & Mfg., Inc.	Ithaca	Replacing Lighting & Fixtures
Kloosterman Greenhouses, LLC	Mattawan	Greenhouse Energy Curtains
Mark Metz	Ida	Grain Dryer Replacement
Ed Pincik	Corunna	Grain Dryer Replacement
Sandy Ridge Farms, Inc.	Zeeland	Replacement of Greenhouse Building
Zelenka Nursery, LLC	Grand Haven	Greenhouse Energy Efficient Boilers
Zwerk Farms	Reese	Grain Dryer Replacement

The Renewable Energy & Energy Efficiency loan and grant program was established under Section 9006 of the 2002 Farm Bill to encourage agricultural producers and small rural businesses to create or install renewable energy generation systems or to make energy efficiency improvements. To date, over \$4.5 million has been committed for 39 rural Michigan energy projects.

For further program information contact the USDA Rural Development Business & Cooperative Division in the East Lansing State Office at (517) 324-5157.

USDA Rural Development’s mission is to increase economic opportunity and improve the quality of life of rural residents. Rural Development has invested more than \$90 billion since 2001 for equity and technical assistance to finance and foster growth in homeownership, business development, and critical community and technology infrastructure. More than 1.7 million jobs have been created or saved through these investments. Further information on rural programs is available at a local USDA Rural Development office or by visiting USDA’s website at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov>.

Committed to the future of rural communities.

“USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender.”
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