



NEWS RELEASE

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MICHIGAN FARMERS & SMALL BUSINESSES RECEIVE USDA ENERGY GRANTS

East Lansing, Michigan October 16, 2007 – USDA Rural Development Director for Michigan Gene DeRossett today announced eight Michigan Farmers and Rural Small Businesses received \$2,361,093 in Renewable Energy & Energy Efficiency Improvement grants or guaranteed loans for fiscal year 2007 under the USDA Rural Development Renewable Energy Program (Section 9006).

“Michigan has a tremendous opportunity to revitalize its economy through renewable energy,” said DeRossett. “This is an investment in a more prosperous and environmentally friendly future for rural Michigan residents.”

The Michigan recipients that were selected are:

<u>Recipient</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Technology Type</u>
Benson Farms	Cadillac	Wood Stove for Beef Operation
Geerlings Hillside Farms, LLC	Overisel & Scottville	Anaerobic Digesters for 2 Hog Facilities
Denis Alan Lentz	Applegate	Grain Dryer Replacement
Neal Mast & Son Greenhouses, Inc.	Grand Rapids	Greenhouse Energy Curtain
Scenic View Dairy, LLC	Freeport	Anaerobic Digester for Dairy Farm
Sietsema Farms Feeds, LLC	Howard City	Biomass (turkey litter) Gasification to Electricity
Town & Country Animal Hospital	Charlotte	Energy Efficient Heating & Cooling
Wenke Greenhouses, Inc.	Kalamazoo	Greenhouse Energy Efficient Boilers

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 \$4.2 million has been committed for 29 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 \$76.8 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 1.5 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.”
To file a complaint of discrimination write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 14th and Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (202) 720-5964 (voice or TDD).