

Seventy-seven Nebraska applicants have been selected to receive \$1,557,923 in loans and grants. Funds will be used to install renewable energy systems and make energy efficiency improvements that will promote energy conservation.

Perkins County recipients are:

Burge Farms Partnership, Grant, \$6,512 grant, two diesel irrigation engines to electric motor conversions.

Cecil Hendricks, Grant- \$10,999 grant, energy efficiency improvements including renozzling two irrigation pivots and two well re-bowls.

Garold Peaster, Madrid, \$10,712 grant, diesel irrigation engine to electric motor conversion and associated well upgrades.

Leon Lee, Grant, \$11,363 grant, two diesel irrigation engine to electric motor conversions.

Ryal Meyer, Brule, \$15,669 grant, two diesel irrigation engine to electric motor conversions and variable frequency drive.

Yolanda Friesen, Madrid, \$10,151 grant, diesel irrigation engine to electric motor conversion, variable frequency drive and well upgrades.

“Through these projects, energy consumption will be reduced, thereby making more dollars available to be kept within rural Nebraska thereby assisting the state’s rural economy,” said Nebraska State Director Maxine Moul, USDA Rural Development.

Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack noted that funding announcements for rural water projects are another reminder of the importance of USDA programs for rural America.

A comprehensive new Food, Farm and Jobs Bill would further expand the rural economy.

He said that’s just one reason why Congress must get a comprehensive Food, Farm and Jobs Bill done as soon as possible.

The funding was made available through the Rural Energy for America Program (REAP).

This program provides opportunities for farmers and rural small business owners to install renewable energy systems and make energy efficiency improvements, as well as explore the feasibility of implementing renewable energy projects.

Additional information on the Rural Energy for America Program may be found at http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/NEBusinessPrograms_Rural_Energy_for_America_Program.htm