



# USDA Beginning Farmers & Ranchers

John Reddy, Loan Specialist

# What do we do?

- Provide affordable rural housing;
- Support rural businesses;
- Modernize infrastructure;
- High-speed internet access;
- Ensure communities access to healthcare and essential community facilities.



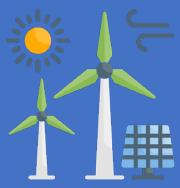

# Programs for ag producers, farmers, and ranchers

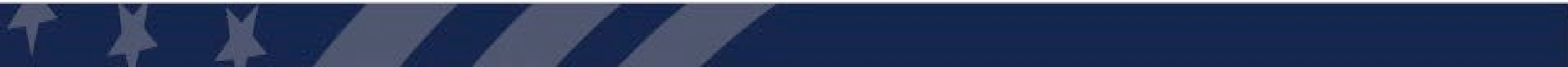
- Rural Energy for America Program
- Value Added Producer Grant Program



# Rural Energy for America Program (REAP)

- Grant Funds up to 50% of Total Eligible Project Costs
- Quarterly Competitions through 9/30/2024 (3/31/2024 & 6/30/2024)
- Renewable Energy Systems or Energy Efficiency Improvements
- Rural Small Businesses or Ag Producers

|  <b>Renewable Energy Systems</b> |   |  <b>Energy Efficiency Improvements</b> |   |
|---|---|---|---|
| Minimum Grant Request   | <b>\$2,500</b><br>Total eligible project costs $\geq$ \$5,000         | Minimum Grant Request   | <b>\$1,500</b><br>Total eligible project costs $\geq$ \$3,000       |
| Maximum Grant Request   | <b>\$1,000,000</b><br>Total eligible project costs $\geq$ \$2 million | Maximum Grant Request   | <b>\$500,000</b><br>Total eligible project costs $\geq$ \$1 million |



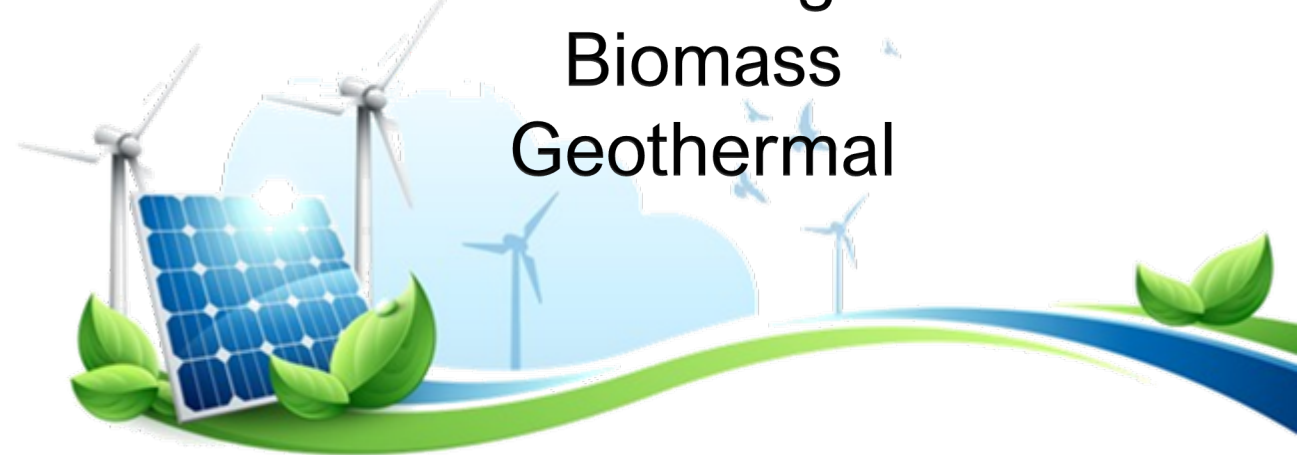
# REAP

## Energy Efficiency

Lighting  
Heating & Cooling  
Windows & Doors  
Efficient Ag Equipment  
Automated Controls  
Insulation

## Renewable Energy

Solar  
Wind  
Small Hydroelectric  
Anaerobic Digesters  
Biomass  
Geothermal



The technology must be commercially available. Research and development projects do not qualify.

For more information or  
submit applications:  
[sm.co.reap@usda.gov](mailto:sm.co.reap@usda.gov)

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# Value Added Producer Grants (VAPG)

- **Currently accepting applications**

- 4/11/2024 deadline if using grants.gov
- 4/16/2024 deadline paper/emailed

- **Funding available for either**

- Planning Grants \$75,000 max
  - Feasibility Study & Business Plans
- Working Capital \$250,000 max
  - Processing costs
  - Marketing and advertising expenses
  - Some inventory and salary expenses

- **Eligible Applicants**

- Independent Producers
- Agricultural Producer Groups
- Farmer- or Rancher Cooperatives
- Majority-controlled Producer

- **Matching Requirement:**

- 1-to-1 match (50% of total project costs)  
cash or eligible in-kind contributions to be used only for eligible project purposes

- **Grant Period:**

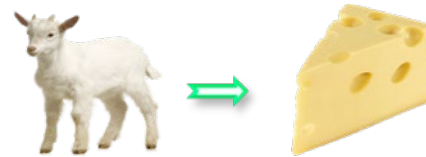
- Up to 36 months



# VAPG

## Five Value-Added Methodologies

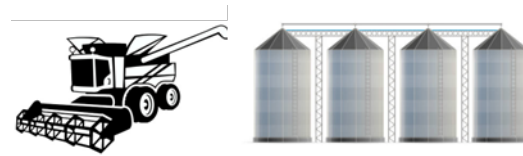
- Change in physical state



- Production that enhances value of ag commodity



- Physical segregation



- Farm or Ranch sources renewable energy



- Locally-produced agricultural food product





Program information,  
applications, and forms can be  
found at

[www.grants.gov](http://www.grants.gov)

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