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ADMINISTRATION**

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Grants Available to Help Farmers Save on Fuel Costs

Energy Efficient Grain Dryers Reduce Propane Usage

The Department of Administration's State Energy Office is reminding Wisconsin farmers that grant funding is available to purchase energy efficient grain dryers. The USDA Rural Energy for America Program (REAP) helps eligible applicants install renewable energy systems or energy efficiency improvements, such as grain dryers that save more than 5,700 gallons of propane for every 100,000 bushels of corn dried.

"We continue to focus on how we can help our farmers save on their energy costs, as well as leave more propane for the heating season," said DOA Deputy Secretary Chris Schoenherr. "This is one of many efforts the State and Governor Walker have undertaken to help ensure our citizens have access to the propane they need to help avoid the type of shortage we saw this past winter."

The State Energy Office helps connect farmers and small businesses with energy saving programs such as REAP. REAP funds up to 25 percent of an eligible energy efficient grain dryer through grants, and provides additional support through the form of loans.

Small rural businesses, farmers and agricultural producers are eligible to apply for these REAP grants if they:

- Get 50 percent or more of their gross income from agricultural production
- Are located in a rural area that has a population of less than 50,000 people
- Apply by July 7, 2014

For more information on REAP and to apply online, please visit the [USDA Rural Energy for America webpage](#) or email Brenda Heinen at Brenda.Heinen@wi.usda.gov.

The Department of Administration is part of the Midwestern Governors Association (MGA) workgroup comprised of government leaders, industry leaders, and those working in and with the propane industry to improve propane operations, enhance consumer awareness, and strengthen industry preparedness. In March, a bipartisan group of Midwestern Governors selected Governor Scott Walker to serve as Chair of the MGA.

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