



- Home
- Search
- Give to GEO
- Join GEO
- Biomass
- Hydro
- Solar
- Wind Energy
- Renew Ohio!
- GEO Events
- Green Power
- Green Buildings
- Economics
- Environment
- GEO in the News
- Clean Energy News
- Inside GEO
- Resources
- ▶ **USDA Incentives**
 - USDA Grant Brochure
 - Grant Fact Sheet
 - USDA Renewable Wkshp
 - USDA Grant Workshops
 - Clean Power Estimtr.
 - Home Clean Energy
 - Energy Efficiency
 - Renewable Directory
 - Ohio Incentives
 - Green State Alliance
 - Fuel Cells in Ohio
 - Green Scrapbook
 - Federal Solar Credit
 - Policy Update Netwrk
- Publications
- Ohio Wind Site
- Contact Us

USDA Farm Bill Green Incentives

Growing A Greener Ohio

On March 28, 2005 the USDA Rural Development Business Programs published a Notice of Funds Availability (NOFA) to implement the Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Program for FY 2005. The NOFA announced the availability of up to \$22.8 million in competitive grant funds for FY 2005 to purchase renewable energy systems and make energy efficiency improvements for agricultural producers and rural small businesses.

Of the \$22.8 million, \$11.4 million is immediately available for grants. The other \$11.4 million will be set aside through August 31, 2005, for guaranteed loans. The NOFA does not provide for a guaranteed loan program. USDA plans to administer the guaranteed loan set aside funds under a final rule anticipated for publication in the Federal Register later this fiscal year. A fiscal year begins October 1, and ends September 30. Any guaranteed loans funds not used by August 31, 2005, will revert to the grant program under the NOFA.

The [U.S. Department of Agriculture \(USDA\)](#) web site has materials that may be helpful to you. It is being continually updated during 2004 as the FY04 Farm Bill solicitation process evolves, so you may want to check back periodically.

2005 USDA Workshops were held in Ohio in March, including technical session discussion with GEO staff, members and Ohio renewable energy installers. The Farm Bill renewable energy program is closely monitored by the Environmental Law & Policy Center in Chicago. [See the ELPC information here.](#)

2004 USDA Grant Ohio Workshops were available to help people navigate the requirements for renewable energy projects eligible for funding under the Farm Bill Section 9006 Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Program. Download a [PDF of the workshop brochure](#) for Toledo and Reynoldsburg, Ohio Farm Bill workshops held on April 8 and 14, 2004 to explain the grants. The [USDA 2004 Grant Fact Sheet](#) (PDF) summarizes the Section 9006 grant provisions.

Related to Ohio farming and renewable energy see: GEO Board Member **Dale Arnold's** Ohio Farm Bureau Federation, March 15, 2004 presentation at Dayton Rural Energy Summit: ["Clean Energy Development - An Agricultural Perspective" \(.pdf\)](#)

See example of [Rural Ohio Small Wind Installation in May 2004 at the Dull Homestead.](#)

After passage of the original 2002 Federal Farm Bill, GEO participated in an April 17, 2003 Federal Farm Bill Renewable Energy Grants Workshop in Reynoldsburg, Ohio. This GEO web page refers to a USDA fact sheet and other information on this first solicitation of renewable energy projects eligible for funding under Farm Bill Section 9006 Renewable

Energy and Energy Efficiency Program.

In August 2003, 5 Ohio companies were awarded USDA grants of over \$2 million total to help fund renewable energy and efficiency projects. Competing with 113 applications, the 5 Ohio firms were selected as part of the overall \$21.2 million available nationally. Farmers and rural small businesses in the Midwest and Great Plains received nearly \$13 million of the total.

The first-round of USDA grant recipients by Project Type and Percent of Funds Awarded Nationally (\$21.2 million awarded) were:

- Wind 36%
- Digesters 33%
- Biofuels 18%
- Energy Efficiency 7%
- Solar 3%
- Other Renewables 3%

Applications selected for funding in Ohio in 2003 include:

Liquid Resources of Ohio, LLC for \$500,000 to build a six million gallon ethanol plant in Medina using waste beverages as feedstock.

Three ethanol producers- **Harrison Ethanol** (Harrison County), **Central Ethanol** (Perry County), and **Pike Ethanol** (Pike County) - each were awarded \$500,000 grants to contract an ethanol plant that will convert animal waste to gas and electricity.

AgriEnergy, Ltd. in Wood County received \$43,612.