

Haarberg Farms in Imperial and Verlon Dinnel of Enders are among 31 Nebraska recipients who have been selected to receive loans and grants to help make their operations more energy efficient.

Haarberg Farms has been awarded a \$12,116 grant for diesel engine to electric motor conversion, well work and two pivot panels.

Dinnel has been offered a \$6,463 grant for converting a diesel irrigation engine to an electric motor.

The funding was made available through the Rural Energy for America Program (REAP), which was established to provide opportunities for farmers and rural small business owners to install renewable energy systems and make energy efficiency improvements.

Maxine Moul is state director for the USDA Rural Development program.

“Through these projects, energy consumption will be reduced, thereby making more dollars available to be kept by the producers,” she said.

A total of \$502,590 in loans and grants was offered to the 31 Nebraska recipients in this round of awards.

When completed, REAP officials said these projects will save 14,922,941,612 BTUs for an annual cost savings of \$219,432.

According to the USDA Rural Development website, the grants received in the program will provide 25% of the eligible improvement costs.