

Contact: Natalie Edmundson
CSU Extension Agent
Range and Livestock Management
719-254-7608
Email: Natalie.edmundson@colostate.edu

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – January 18, 2010

GREEN ENERGY IS NOT JUST FOR MUNICIPALITIES OR BIG COMPANIES

SOUTHEAST AREA—Colorado is a great place for renewable energy development, especially Southeast Colorado. We have the sun, the wind, underground heat, and ability to grow a variety of crops. We also have financial incentives for starting now rather than later.

Not only is there a wind farm south of Lamar, but many farms and ranches have installed renewable energy systems for their homes and operations. A group of producers around Rocky Ford started the Big Squeeze, pressing oil from seed grown on their farms to make biodiesel. The by-product is then used to feed cattle.

Fred Hefley, a Walsh farmer, has installed wind turbines to produce electricity. This electricity powers two sprinkler systems on his farm. Other producers have installed wind turbines to generate electricity for their homes.

And don't forget about the sun! Colorado has over 300 days of sunshine per year. By capturing this energy, we can power homes, electric fences, and water wells. Cody Ridenoure, Rocky Ford, installed solar panels on his home recently and has been using the sun, rather than fossil fuels, to power his home. Doug Tecklenburg, Boone, has installed solar pumps to water his livestock, garden, and windbreak trees.

Renewable energy is possible in Southeast Colorado, and now is the



**Southeast Area
Extension**

**County Extension
Offices**

Baca County
772 Colorado St.
Springfield, CO 81073
719-523-6971

Bent County
1499 Amb. Thompson Blvd.
Las Animas, CO 81054
719-456-0764

Cheyenne County
425 S. 7th W.
P. O. Box 395
Cheyenne Wells, CO 80810
719-767-5716

Crowley County
603 North Main St.
Courthouse Annex
Ordway, CO 81063
719-267-5243

Kiowa County
1305 Goff
P. O. Box 97
Eads, CO 81036
719-438-5321

Otero County
411 N. 10th
P. O. Box 190
Rocky Ford, CO 81067
7190-254-7608

Prowers County
1001 S. Main
Lamar, CO 81052
719-336-7734

time to install these systems. National and state programs are providing grants, rebates, and discounts for people installing renewable energy systems. In 2007 Governor Ritter set a goal to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 20 percent by 2020. He also recognized agriculture as part of the solution and developed ways to encourage farmers and ranchers to help reach this goal.

The Colorado Governor's Energy Office is leading Colorado into a new energy economy and is working with power companies to create rebate programs. These programs can re-capture some of the initial costs of installation; however, they won't always be available. New job opportunities are being developed to create new technology or install projects.

Southeast Colorado has great opportunities in renewable energy and the resources to guide the way. If you would like to learn more about renewable energy projects in the area, plan to attend the Arkansas Valley Farm/Ranch/Water Symposium and Trade Show on February 4, 2010, in Rocky Ford. Learn more about what works, and what doesn't work, and also what financial assistance is available to decrease the cost of installing your system. Visit www.farmranchwater.org or call the CSU Extension Office—Otero County 719-254-7608 to reserve your spot today. Green energy is available and more cost effective than ever for us all.

###