USDA

United States Department of Agriculture

Office of the Secretary
Washington, D.C. 20250

AUG - 7 2009

Mr. Todd Staples
Commissioner
Texas Department of Agriculture
Post Office Box 12847
Austin, Texas 78711

Dear Commissioner Staples:

Thank you for your letter of April 14, 2009, concerning the implementation of the energy programs delegated to the Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Rural Development agency under the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (2008 Farm Bill).

The Federal Register notices for the Repowering Assistance and Advanced Biofuels Payment Programs were published on June 12, 2009. The notice for the Rural Energy for America Program was published in the Federal Register on May 26, 2009. We encourage you to contact the Energy Coordinator Daniel Torres at (254) 742-9756 or Daniel.Torres@tx.usda.gov for further information on our programs and ways that USDA Rural Development may partner with the state of Texas in the future.

Thank you for your interest and support for USDA's Rural Development energy programs. If you have questions, please contact the Energy Division at (202) 720-1400.

Sincerely,

Thomas J. Vilsack
Secretary