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Program offers grants to states for hosting propane equipment demonstrations

WASHINGTON (March 18, 2010) — The Propane Education & Research Council (PERC) is offering \$5,000 grants to state propane gas associations that agree to partner with PERC to organize on-farm demonstrations this summer. The program will show farmers how propane irrigation engines and propane mowers can help improve productivity.

“PERC wants to connect with farmers on a more personal level to show them the advantages of propane equipment through in-person demonstrations,” says PERC Director of Agriculture Programs Mark Leitman. “By partnering with state propane associations that understand the needs of their states’ farmers, we are reaching farmers with an interest in propane equipment.”

To qualify for a \$5,000 grant, a state must have an active role in coordinating a demonstration, including assisting PERC with key planning aspects such as selecting a location for an event and gathering attendees for each event.

States interested in coordinating a demonstration must complete an application form that outlines their plans to hold a demonstration between April and September 2010. Because funding is limited, PERC encourages interested state propane associations to submit an application immediately.

PERC will focus on demonstrations of propane-fueled irrigation engines and propane lawn mowers to complement the Propane FEED (Farm Equipment Efficiency Demonstration) program. The Propane FEED program provides a financial incentive of up to \$2,500 to farmers who purchase, install, and provide feedback on the propane irrigation engines, propane lawn mowers, and propane tankless water heaters used in agricultural applications.

“We hope holding demonstrations on equipment that qualifies for the Propane FEED program will encourage the farmers to buy new propane equipment and increase their gallon load,” Leitman said.

PERC’s vision is that the agricultural industry will embrace propane as a preferred energy source that offers cost-effectiveness, efficiency and productivity, reliability, portability, and environmental friendliness. For more information on PERC and its programs to promote the safe and efficient use of propane in agriculture, call 202-452-8975 or visit www.agpropane.com.

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The Propane Education & Research Council was authorized by the U.S. Congress with the passage of Public Law 104-284, the Propane Education and Research Act (PERA), signed into law on October 11, 1996. The mission of the Propane Education & Research Council is to promote the safe, efficient use of odorized propane gas as a preferred energy source.