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CENTRAL IOWA POWER COOPERATIVE COMMITS \$2.5 MILLION TO IOWA FARM BUREAU'S RENEW RURAL IOWA PROGRAM.

Cedar Rapids, IA – November 15, 2006 - Central Iowa Power Cooperative (CIPCO) and its member systems have agreed to provide \$2.5 million to Farm Bureau's *Renew Rural Iowa* program.

Farm Bureau launched *Renew Rural Iowa in* September to encourage the growth of new and existing business in Iowa communities with a population of less than 30,000. *The Renew Rural Iowa* program provides mentoring, networking seminars with topics ranging from how to write a business plan to seeking out the best financing options.

Renew Rural Iowa will conduct six seminars across the state in select rural Iowa communities. After the entrepreneurs successfully complete the seminars they will be eligible for funding from the rural vitality investment fund, which now stands at \$12.5 million. The first seminar will be held at Buena Vista University in Storm Lake November 30 through December first.

CIPCO's investment in *Renew Rural Iowa* is a natural fit for the company's commitment to economic development in Iowa. "CIPCO is an active participant in economic development of rural Iowa. We believe that supporting new and existing businesses in Iowa will only continue to provide the quality of life for our young people that we have grown accustomed to. We are dedicated to keeping our young people in Iowa after graduation," said Dennis Murdock, executive vice president/CEO of Central Iowa Power Cooperative.

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“We’re pleased to see a company such as CIPCO share Farm Bureau’s desire to help bring an economic renaissance to rural Iowa,” said IFBF President Craig Lang. “These wonderful towns need to know that the public sectors and private sectors believe in what they can accomplish, what they can create to ensure Iowa’s place as a destination for families,” said Lang. “***Renew Rural Iowa*** is about paving the way for those kinds of opportunities to grow.”

It’s a vision long shared by CIPCO. In 2004, CIPCO and the University of Northern Iowa developed the ***CIPCO Enhancement Fund*** to provide opportunities for UNI students to intern with Iowa-based small businesses and new ventures. This program also offers the opportunity that introduces the talent resources available to our growing businesses in rural Iowa. Through one of CIPCO’s wholly-owned subsidiaries, Iowa Capital Corporation, CIPCO has been involved in venture funds since 1991 investing in young companies that are focused on growth and technology.

For more information or to register for a ***Renew Rural Iowa*** seminar, go to Iowa Farm Bureau’s website at www.iowafarmbureau.com and click on the ***Renew Rural Iowa*** icon, or call (1-800-254-9670)

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About CIPCO

Central Iowa Power Cooperative is a wholesale energy provider that generates and transmits the energy needs to its 13 member systems serving in 58 of the 99 Iowa counties. Headquartered in Cedar Rapids, Iowa CIPCO’s service territory extends over a 300 mile diagonal path across the state including most of the southern tier of Iowa as well as east central Iowa. (www.cipco.net)

About Iowa Farm Bureau

The Iowa Farm Bureau Federation is a grassroots, statewide organization dedicated to enhancing the People, Progress and Pride of Iowa. More than 153,000 families in Iowa are Farm Bureau members, working together to achieve farm and rural prosperity. For more information about Farm Bureau and agriculture, visit the online media center at www.iowafarmbureau.com.



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