

2013 Energy Initiative At A Glance

Do you have old equipment, buildings and machinery? NRCS can help you find ways to:

- ✔ Cut your costs
- ✔ Maintain or increase profitability
- ✔ Protect soil and water resources
- ✔ Reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions

Applications are accepted continuously. Deadlines for batching periods are January 18, February 15, & March 15, 2013.



Seal leaks or add insulation to save money.

Program Description



The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) helps agricultural producers plan and install conservation practices to improve soil, water, plant, animal, air, and energy resources. The On-Farm Energy Initiative gives farmers two ways to make their operations more efficient and environmentally-friendly: payments for energy audits and for installing practices recommended in the audit reports.

Energy audits identify ways to save energy on the farm and outline estimated costs and payback periods for each improvement. Farmers can then use this information to decide which measures give them the highest benefits for their investment.

The program is open to individuals, legal entities or joint operations who grow agricultural commodities on eligible crop or pastureland. You must file an application for EQIP assistance at your local USDA Service Center. Program payments are limited to \$300,000 per person or entity for all contracts during any six-year period.

| Assistance Available | Description | Audits Types |
|--|--|---|
| <p>1. Agricultural Energy Management Plans (on-farm energy audits)</p>  <p><i>TSPs review and analyze farm systems and recommend saving measures such as electronic controllers.</i></p> | <p>An audit is a record and analysis of energy use on the farm with recommendations for improving energy conservation and efficiency.</p> <p>The farmer contracts with a Technical Service Provider (TSP)* to prepare a report on energy use and opportunities for improvement.</p> <p>NRCS reviews the report and, once approved, reimburses the farmer for the audit at a payment rate based on operation size.</p> <p>* NRCS provides a reference list of certified TSPs.</p> | <p>Headquarters – Examines energy requirements for buildings, equipment and machinery.</p> <p>Landscape – Assesses farm field operations that require energy. Examples include irrigation, cropping systems, and associated equipment or machinery.</p> |

| Assistance Available | Description | Sample Improvements |
|---|--|--|
| <p>2. Farmstead Energy Improvement</p>  <p><i>A radiant brood heater can help poultry producers cut energy costs.</i></p> | <p>NRCS provides an incentive payment for implementing recommended energy saving practices. Payments vary based on the audit recommendations.</p> <p>Higher payments are available for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> New and beginning (less than 10 years' experience), Socially-disadvantaged, or Limited resource farmers <p>Practices must be based on an audit that meets NRCS requirements.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ventilation fans Radiant brood heaters CFL and LED lighting Cooling/refrigeration for dairies Insulation for poultry houses Electronic controllers Electronic motors and variable speed drives High efficiency grain dryers |

Which Energy Saving Improvement is Right for You?

Visit your local NRCS Service Center to sign up for the On-Farm Energy Initiative. The staff will give you a list of certified Technical Service Providers you can contact for an initial screening to see if an audit makes sense for you.



These before and after photos show lighting and fan upgrades in a dairy operation.



The new grain dryer shown above offers significant cost savings over the less efficient dryer on the left.



The older style poultry houses with slant wall tunnel fans (above left) use more energy than the butterfly shutter types (above right).