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KANSAS BULLETIN NO. KS300-12-18

SUBJECT: LTP–Environmental Quality Incentives Program–Fiscal Year 2012 On-Farm Energy Initiative

Action required by: February 6, 2012 (Field Office [FO])
April 2, 2012 (FO)
June 4, 20 (FO)
June 18, 2012 (Area Offices [AOs])
February 8, 2012 (State Office [SO])
April 4, 2012 (SO)
June 6, 2012 (SO)

Purpose. To provide guidance on administering the national On-Farm Energy Initiative through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)

Expiration Date. September 30, 2013

Background

Under the Food Conservation and Energy Act of 2008, Title II, Subtitle F–EQIP, Section 2501 provides authority for use of EQIP (as a national purpose) to specifically address energy conservation through practice implementation and for development of Energy Conservation Plans. During Fiscal Year (FY) 2012, the program is designed to assist producers in two ways:

1. Identify ways to conserve energy on their farms through an Agricultural Energy Management Plan (AgEMP) Conservation Activity Plan (CAP), also known as an On-Farm Energy audit.
2. Provide assistance to implement various recommended measures through the use of conservation practice standards offered through this initiative such as Conservation Practice (CP) 374, Farmstead Energy Improvement.

Only through implementation of recommended measures and conservation practices will energy conservation, efficiency, and savings be achieved.

(more)

DIST: A, F, S, C. Nelson

States shall evaluate and fund applications for on-farm energy related projects and the two required CAPs using the “On-Farm Energy” Programs Contracts System (ProTracts) sub-account.

Eligible Practices

The following CAPs are available to provide planning assistance:

- AgEMP–Headquarters (122)
- AgEMP–Landscape (124)

NOTE: The ProTracts application type of “planning” must be associated with each CAP application and ranking of these applications is not required, nor encouraged. CAPs may be pre-approved after all eligibility requirements are met.

The eligible conservation practices and associated energy resource concerns for the Energy Initiative are listed in Attachment A.

For a producer to be eligible to implement CP 374, they must have an AgEMP–Headquarters CAP or an on-farm energy audit (no more than five years old) that meets the ASABE S612 standard (Attachment B). Otherwise, the application must be deferred until an acceptable on-farm energy audit or AgEMP–Headquarters CAP is provided.

Ranking Criteria

This initiative is only applicable to Crop and Headquarters land use types.

The following are the resource concerns for the Energy Initiative.

- Inefficient Energy Use–Equipment and Facilities Energy
- Inefficient Energy Use–Farming/Ranching Practices and Field Operations

National ranking criteria are consistent for all EQIP applications. The state and local ranking criteria are listed in Attachment C.

Application Ranking Periods

Although applications for EQIP are accepted continuously, the following are the ranking periods for the Energy Initiative this FY:

- **Period 1:** The application ranking evaluation period cutoff date has been set for February 3, 2012. All eligible applications received by this date must be ranked and be pre-approved for funding to the SO by February 8, 2012. **Applications received will have rankings completed in ProTracts by close of business (COB) February 6, 2012.**

- **Period 2:** The application ranking evaluation period cutoff date has been set for March 30, 2012. All eligible applications received by this date must be ranked and be pre-approved for funding to the SO by April 4, 2012. **Applications received will have rankings completed in ProTracts by COB April 2, 2012.**
- **Period 3:** The application ranking evaluation period cutoff date has been set for June 1, 2012. All eligible applications received by this date must be ranked and be pre-approved for funding to the SO by June 6, 2012. **Applications received will have rankings completed in ProTracts by COB June 4, 2012.**

NOTE: The expectation is to have applications ranked and conservation plans completed as they are received.

Obligation Deadline:

All Energy Initiative approved applications must be obligated by June 18, 2012.

Contact: Please forward questions through established channels, to Corey L. Nelson, Resource Conservationist, at corey.nelson@ks.usda.gov or call (785) 823-4580.

(Signed)

ERIC B. BANKS
State Conservationist

Attachments