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Conservation Activity Plan-Agricultural Energy Management Plan

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A Conservation Activity Plan (CAP)-Agricultural Energy Management Plan (AgEMP) for a farm or ranch is an on-farm energy audit. This audit analyzes the energy use of buildings, other structures and field operations, and identifies opportunities to save energy.

Which farming operations typically benefit from a CAP-AgEMP?

- Crop Farming Operations
- Fruit and Vegetable Farming Operations
- Nursery/Greenhouses
- Aquaculture Operations
- Animal Feeding Operations

What farming practices are generally audited for energy savings?

- Irrigation
- Grain Drying and Storage
- Building Heating and Cooling
- Ventilation
- Refrigeration
- Lighting Systems

Who prepares the plan?

An NRCS certified Technical Service Provider (TSP), selected by the landowner, prepares a plan that includes:

- Assessments of cost-effective alternatives
- Expected energy savings
- Payback estimates

What items are typically recommended?

TSPs can recommend and plan energy conservation practices such as:

- Improved refrigeration and drying equipment
- Lighting Improvements
- Pumping plant upgrades
- Irrigation water management strategies
- Alternative tillage options

What is included in the CAP-AgEMP?

The audit will include a report that itemizes energy savings measures. The report includes estimated costs, energy savings, and a payback period. The AgEMP helps determine your priorities for implementing energy savings measures.

How do I request a CAP-AgEMP?

Contact your local NRCS office for information on how to apply for an CAP-Agricultural Energy Management Plan.

How do I find a certified TSP for CAP-AgEMP or become a certified TSP?

For additional information on locating a certified TSP or becoming a certified TSP, please visit the NRCS TSP Program Webpage :

<http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/programs/technical/tsp/>

How much does the CAP-AgEMP cost?

The actual cost of the plan is determined by your agreement with the Technical Service Provider (TSP) that you have selected. If you have an EQIP contract for the CAP, NRCS has set payment rates that you will receive to help cover some of the audit expenses. This rate is available through each State's Field Office Technical Guide or by contacting the local field office.

What is generally required of the producer for a CAP-AgEMP?

- Locate and provide copies of utility and gas bills
- Visit with the TSP to go over your farming operations and provide needed details
- Provide access to your facility for the TSP to collect data on-site
- Review the plan's recommendations and provide comments and feedback to the TSP about any needed revisions

Does NRCS provide any funding to assist with implementation of measures identified in the CAP-AgEMP?

NRCS provides some funding to assist with certain energy conservation measures that have been identified in the plan. Funding is on a competitive basis and application is made through your local NRCS office.

Does NRCS have any resources available to determine potential energy savings on my own?

The NRCS Energy Tools website has a variety of self-assessment tools that may help with general recommendations and determine if an energy management plan can benefit your operation:

<http://energytools.sc.egov.usda.gov/>

For more information, please visit www.nrcs.usda.gov.

Recommended Measure	Estimated Reduction in Energy Use			
	Electric Savings (kWh)	Propane Savings (Gal)	Other ^{3/}	Energy Savings 1/ (mBTU)
Example: Lighting	25,210			86
Example: Seal Air Leaks		477		44
Example: Insulate Brood Curtain		98		9
Example: Exposed Foundation Wall Insulation		383		35
Example: Curtain to Solid Insulated Sidewalls		444		41
Totals	25,210	1,402		21

Table 1 Example of Recommended Measures Summary