



Virginia Overview

Do you have old equipment, buildings or machinery? They could be adding more to your operating costs than you think.

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) can help you find ways to cut those costs, maintain or increase profitability, protect soil and water resources, and reduce on-farm generated pollutants and greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.

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.

Agricultural Act of 2014

Energy Initiative

Environmental Quality Incentives Program



Climate control systems with energy efficient cooling fans can help poultry producers cut energy costs for their operations.

The On-Farm Energy Initiative helps farmers make their operations more efficient and environmentally-friendly by offering payments for energy audits.

Agricultural Energy Management Plan (on-farm energy audit):

An audit is a record and analysis of energy use on the farm with recommendations for improving energy conservation and efficiency. Producers can get an energy audit that covers their headquarters operations and/or their field operations.

An audit of a farm's headquarters operations examines current energy use and efficiency for buildings, equipment, and machinery. A field operations audit assesses field specific activities that require





TSPs review and analyze farm systems and recommend energy saving measures like electronic controllers.

energy. Examples include irrigation water pumping and distribution, and cropping systems activities that involve use of equipment and machinery.

NRCS provides a reference list of certified Technical Service Providers (TSPs) that the farmer can contract with to prepare a report on energy use and opportunities for improvement.

NRCS reviews the report and, once approved, reimburses the farmer for the audit at a payment rate based on operation size.



A radiant brood heater can help poultry producers cut energy costs.

Eligibility

This program is open to individuals, legal entities or joint operations who have head-quarters operations or who grow agricultural commodities on eligible crop or pastureland.

You must file an application for EQIP assistance at your local USDA Service Center. Higher payments are available for:

- New and beginning (less than 10 years' experience),
- Socially-disadvantaged, or
- Limited resource farmers
- Veteran farmers with less than 10 years experience

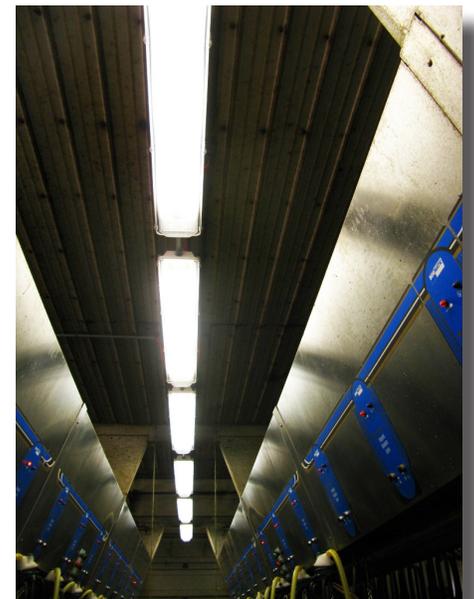
How to apply

Program sign-up is continuous with periodic evaluation and preapprovals throughout the year. Call the NRCS field office at your local USDA Service Center or visit us online at www.va.nrcs.usda.gov for more information.

More Information

For more information visit your local USDA Service Center or www.nrcs.usda.gov/farmbill.

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



Find your local USDA Service Center

To find your local office, visit www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/va/contact/.

www.va.nrcs.usda.gov

Natural Resources Conservation Service