



United States Department of Agriculture

Attachment A1

National On-Farm Energy Initiative (NOFEI)

Description/Summary:

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 an Agricultural Energy Management Plan. During fiscal year (FY) 2014, the program is designed to assist producers in two ways:

- 1) Identify ways to reduce energy use on their farms through an Agricultural Energy Management Plan (AgEMP) for the Farm Headquarters (farmstead) and/or for the Farm Landscape (fields operations) Conservation Activity Plan (CAP), also known as on-farm energy audits;
- 2) Provide assistance to implement various recommended measures through the use of conservation practice standards offered through this initiative, such as the Farmstead Energy Improvement 374. In order to provide assistance for the implementation of the various recommended measures, an on-farm energy audit described above, must be completed prior to application deadline.

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

The following land uses are approved for NOFEI:

- Crop
- Pasture
- Range
- Farmstead

The following Resource Concerns are approved for NOFEI:

Energy
Inefficient Energy Use – Equipment and Facilities
Inefficient Energy Use – Farming/Ranching Practices

The following Conservation Practices are eligible for NOFEI:

Practice Name	Practice Code
Agricultural Energy Management Plan - Headquarters	122
Agricultural Energy Management Plan - Landscape	124
Farmstead Energy Improvement	374
Irrigation Water Management	449
Pumping Plant	533
Lighting System Improvement	670
Building Envelope Improvement	672

Conservation practice code 122 and 124 are the only approved Conservation Activity Plans (CAP) under the NOFEI. The following practices are eligible for this initiative:

Practice Name	Practice Code
Conservation Crop Rotation	328
Cover Crop	340
Residue and Tillage Management, Mulch Till	345
Residue and Tillage Management, No Till/ Strip Till/ Direct Seed	329
Residue and Tillage Management, Ridge Till	346
Windbreak/ Shelterbelt Establishment	380

Screening is required for each eligible NOFEI application. Business rules for ranking questions are available on the programs Utah SharePoint site: Programs -> FY 2014 -> Business Rules

Additional Initiative Guidance:

- a. Capturing Energy Benefits – An “Energy Benefits” button is available in ProTracts to capture estimated energy savings. This button must be checked “yes” for all contract items implemented as part of NOFEI and based on the recommendations provided as part of a completed on-farm energy audit. Checking “yes” requires the user to enter the numeric values for the estimated energy savings and the reduction of greenhouse gases and air pollutants directly associated with the energy savings from the completed on-farm energy audit.
- b. The “Energy Benefits” should be checked “no” for AgEMP CAP applications since energy savings do not occur unless the recommended measures provided in an AgEMP CAP report are implemented.
- c. An agency approved worksheet has been developed to calculate an energy cost efficiency score for ranking purposes. The Energy Cost Efficiency Worksheet (available in an Excel format on the business rules SharePoint) uses information from an AgEMP or other ASABE S612 compliant on-farm energy audit to calculate an energy savings to project cost score.
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