



November 3, 2010

To: Arkansas Farm Bureau Poultry Division
From: Matt King and Bruce Tencleve MK
Subject: NEW EQIP Program for Poultry House Upgrades

The USDA/NRCS in Arkansas has a new EQIP practice available to poultry growers. The "**Farm Energy Efficiency Equipment Improvements Program**" is very similar to the REAP program we presented to you last year. The main difference is this program offers a **60-75 percent cost share** as opposed to the REAP grant's 25 percent cost share, and the paperwork associated will be easier as it will be the same other EQIP projects.

The new program covers a number of practices to upgrade a poultry house including:

- Lighting
- Ventilation
- Insulation
- Radiant Heat

The application deadline to sign-up for the 2011 EQIP is quickly approaching. Sign-up ends

NOVEMBER 30, 2010

If you are interested in this new program, you need to go to your county office and sign-up to participate in EQIP. You do not have to know what practice you want to do at this time. You just have to initiate the process before December 1. You have until January 30, 2011 to determine what practices you want to implement on your operation.

[Guidelines for the new program are still being written and should be available later this month. One of the requirements will likely be for an energy audit on your farm. The University of Arkansas has received a grant to do energy audits for \$380 per farm. For more information on the energy audits contact Yi Liang, Ph.D. at 479-575-4862 or yliang@uark.edu.]

This new EQIP program will likely be more competitive for funds than the REAP grants, because you will be competing against a wide array of EQIP programs. As with any EQIP project, your chances for success increase when you bundle projects. On the next page is a list of some of the more popular EQIP practices used by poultry growers.

If you have any questions, please contact me at 501-228-1297 or matt.king@arfb.com; or Bruce Tencleve, 501-228-1856 or bruce.tencleve@arfb.com.

Other potential EQIP Projects for Poultry Producers

Amendments for Treatment of Agricultural Waste (50% cost share)

- This program covers application of materials to manures produced in confined animal operations for the purpose of reducing the impact of phosphorus on water quality. This is an incentive practice and provides up to three years of financial assistance to producers who have not used the practice for this purpose before.

Waste Storage Facility “Stacking Shed” (50% cost share)

- A facility to store either liquid or dry animal manures from a confined animal operation until an appropriate time for land application or other use.

Composting Facility (50% cost share)

- A composting facility is a structure used to compost dead animals associated with a confined animal operation. A mortality facility includes incinerators and freezers. These should be used only when existing facilities are not adequate for the existing operation.

Heavy Use Area Protection (50% cost share)

- Used primarily for areas with heavy livestock use, such as around water troughs or other watering points, but may apply to other conservation uses. Usually involves placing filter cloth and a layer of pervious material such as SB2 rock, but may include other materials. This is not required with every watering facility, but is available when needed.

Ag Energy Management Plans (75% cost share)

- The Agricultural Energy Conservation and Efficiency initiative is designed to help agricultural producers transition to more energy efficient operations. This initiative is designed to save both money and energy when fully implemented. The energy audits will be individually tailored to ensure coverage of each farm’s primary energy uses such as irrigation pumping, heating and cooling of livestock production facilities, manure collection and transfer, grain drying, and similar common on-farm activities.

ARKANSAS FACT SHEET

November, 2010

- EQIP applications are taken on continuous basis, however, to be considered for the 2011 EQIP funding, applications must be on record with NRCS by November 30, 2010.
- Any applications filed after the November 30th date can be considered for the next funding period.
- November 30, 2010, through January 31, 2011, will be the “2011 Ranking Period”.
- Prior to the end of the ranking period applicants must have all eligibility issues satisfactory met for EQIP program participant eligibility criteria.
- During the “Ranking Period,” the producer will make final decisions on the details of their EQIP application. Once the ranking period is over, funding decisions will be made.

Available Conservation Practices:

- Practice 122 and 124
 - Energy Conservation Activity Plan (CAP): 122 for Headquarters and 124 for Landscape
 - Practice 122 or 124 will be planned by an approved Technical Service Provider (TSP).
 - An application for an audit/plan cannot be made through EQIP once an audit/plan has been initiated or completed. EQIP rules specify if a practice is started prior to filing an application that practice is no longer eligible for the EQIP program.
 - FY 2011 will have an EQIP Energy Initiative funded separately from General EQIP. Only Energy CAP 122 or 124 will be funded through this Initiative.
 - If a producer is funded for 122 or 124, the producer is responsible for contacting a TSP to complete the Energy Conservation Activity Plan (CAP). Upon receipt of the plan the producer shall provide NRCS a copy of the plan for certification and payment for the practice to be paid to the producer. Financial arrangement between the Producer and TSP is the producer responsibility.
- Practice 374
 - On-Farm Equipment Efficiency Improvements (new practice),
 - Components available under this practice include:**
 - *Replacement of existing low efficiency heaters with Radiant Heaters*
 - *Replacement of existing low efficiency lighting with High Efficiency Replacement Lights*
 - *Installing additional Ventilation*
 - *Installing additional Insulation to side walls & Ceilings*
 - Practice 374 is only available if the producer can provide a copy of an Energy Audit to the NRCS office before ranking is finalized. Only for the purpose of meeting this requirement for Practice 374, the plan may be developed by any source as long as it meets the 122 or 124 Energy CAP criteria.
 - Practice 374 or any other conservation practice(s) will be funded through General EQIP and will be considered through the General EQIP ranking process.
 - Practices 122 or 124 *and* 374 in combination are not available during the same ranking period on the same farm/land.
- Practice 372
 - Combustion System Improvement – will not be available for FY2011.

USDA Cost Share Program for Farm Energy Upgrades

- The USDA Rural Development Office offers a 25% cost share grant for energy efficiency and renewable energy projects under the Rural Energy for America Program (REAP)
- The grant is available to agriculture producers and rural businesses
- Typical poultry farm improvement projects including
 - Energy efficient lighting
 - Insulation and leakage
 - Heater upgrade
 - And much more
- Producers applying for the grant will need a loan to cover the full cost of the project. REAP payments are not made until after project is completed
- FY 2011 applications can be accepted any time (no deadline of submission)

- Combination applications with grant and guaranteed loan receive higher preference in funding
- REAP is an annual grant and guaranteed loan program that producers can apply each year to improve energy efficiency on their operations
- Projects can begin as soon as the US Department of Agriculture has received your completed application

Please contact:

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The logo for the University of Arkansas, featuring the letters 'U of A' in a stylized, serif font. The 'U' and 'A' are large and connected, with 'of' in a smaller font between them.

UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS
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Energy Audit at Low Cost

One of the major obstacles to this program in the states of Arkansas and Oklahoma has been the availability and costs of the energy audit service. The University of Arkansas Division of Agriculture has recently been awarded a grant from USDA Rural Development to cost share the energy audits for poultry growers.

- The cost for the participating grower is \$380. The rest will be covered by the grant.

