

United States Department of Agriculture



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NRCS Offers Energy-Saving Tools for Farmers

INDIANAPOLIS, June 12, 2006 – Energy and efficiency are important to agricultural producers, just as they are to most business operators. The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is offering several on-line tools and services to help producers calculate reductions in energy use, increase efficiency in their operations, and make their business transactions with USDA easier and faster.

“Energy is an issue in every part of a farm operation,” says NRCS State Conservationist Jane Hardisty. “We have developed several energy calculators and put them on-line so producers can see where they might reduce energy costs with conservation practice decisions. Our calculators consider the energy costs in the fuel to run machinery, dry grain and irrigate, and the energy savings available by considering fertilizer types, timing, and placement.”

The energy cost calculators and energy-saving links are available on-line on the NRCS national web site at www.nrcs.usda.gov. Click on the “Save Energy, Save Money” link on the right side of the page to view energy estimators for Tillage, Nitrogen, Irrigation (coming soon), and Agricultural Propane.

In addition to the calculators, the “Save Energy, Save Money” site shows how conservation practices can add to energy efficiency and lower costs in the farm operation, and it has other links to help farmers with cost reductions.

Another on-line tool offers producers “eAuthentication accounts.” With eAuthentication farmers have the convenience of transacting business with USDA on-line, anytime, from anywhere. Producers can access their own, specific Customer Statement which puts a whole range of USDA services and programs into a single report at their fingertips. The Customer Statement allows USDA customers to view:

- their participation, application and payment status in various conservation and commodity programs,
- information on farm loans, and
- conservation plan and land unit information.

“Farmers can go on-line to monitor the payments that NRCS makes to them for installing conservation practices under their conservation program contracts,” says Hardisty. “These on-line services are making it easier and faster for producers to do business with NRCS and the rest of USDA. That’s our goal, to help them make their operations more efficient through conservation.”

Visit the Save Energy, Save Money site above to get more details and reduce energy costs.

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