

# Feedstuffs

THE WEEKLY NEWSPAPER FOR AGRIBUSINESS

News

Feedstuffs, October 31, 2011

19

## Dairy SaveEnergy tool launched

**T**HE Innovation Center for U.S. Dairy has launched an online resource that connects dairy producers to financial assistance programs and educational materials to help them reduce on-farm energy use and related costs.

The SaveEnergy tool — at [www.USDairy.com/SaveEnergy](http://www.USDairy.com/SaveEnergy) — is part of the Farm Energy Efficiency project. It is one of 10 projects of the U.S. Dairy Sustainability Commitment, an effort established by dairy producers to reduce the industry's environmental impact and create business value across the supply chain.

Through an agreement with the innovation center, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) supported the development of the SaveEnergy tool to accelerate energy conservation and build awareness of the importance of on-farm energy audits, also known as Agricultural Energy Manage-

### Key Points

- Dairy producers establish SaveEnergy tool to reduce environmental impact.
- Key first step is conducting on-farm energy audit.
- Finder tool identifies financial assistance for audits.

### ment Plans.

An on-farm energy audit inventories a dairy's current systems and equipment, identifies the cost of energy used and provides a detailed recommendation about actions, upgrades and potential savings that could most benefit the farm. It typically takes fewer than four hours of the producer's time and can identify opportunities to reduce energy use by 10-35%.

The SaveEnergy tool follows a three-step process: (1) learn how to cut costs of on-farm energy use, (2) decide if an energy audit is right for the dairy operation and (3) find financial assistance for on-farm energy audits and equipment updates.



Dairy producers can use the SaveEnergy Finder tool to identify financial assistance for on-farm energy audits and the implementation of audit recommendations. The Finder tool uses an interactive map that connects users to state and local financial assistance programs for energy audits, incentives or rebates for equipment retrofits and a customized listing of local equip-

ment suppliers and installers.

NRCS will use its Environmental Quality Incentives Program to provide technical and financial assistance for the on-farm energy audits and energy efficiency equipment upgrades this fall. While funding levels may differ from state to state, eligibility criteria will remain the same nationwide. ■