



Find Ways to Reduce Farm Energy Use, Spending

By [Isiekmann](#) | Published: January 6, 2012

With the national energy inflation rate at 10% and business costs continuing to climb, the New Year is a good time to maximize farm energy efficiency and minimize monthly utility bills. The Innovation Center for U.S. Dairy urges dairy producers interested in cutting on-farm energy costs to contact their local Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) office.

Funding is available to help producers address on-farm energy use and increase efficiency. Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) funding is available through NRCS for farm energy audits and equipment upgrades (available to those with qualifying audits). But producers should act now. The first national application cutoff is Feb. 3. More details can be found through local NRCS field offices.

An on-farm energy audit, also known as an Agricultural Energy Management Plan (AgEMP) can identify improvements that could reduce energy use by 10% to 35% — most often in areas such as lighting, milk cooling, ventilation, vacuum pumps and electric water heating reports [Dairy Profit Weekly](#).

To learn more about the audit and financial assistance opportunities, use the Innovation Center's easy-to-use, SaveEnergy web tool at USDairy.com/SaveEnergy.

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