

Livingston County



Soil & Water Conservation District Newsletter

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February 2010

ENERGIZE MISSOURI AGRICULTURE *Cost-Share Grants for Energy Saving Projects*

The Energize Missouri Agriculture program is sponsored by the Missouri Department of Natural Resources Energy Center and Soil and Water Conservation Program. They are offering up to \$3 million in cost-share grants to agriculture operations statewide for agriculture energy efficiency improvements and renewable energy equipment. The grant will fund up to 75 percent of the equipment and hardware cost of an energy saving project with a limit of \$5,000 per applicant. Applications must be post marked and mailed to the Missouri Department of Natural Resources or sent electronically through the Web Site by April 20, 2010.

What is this program?

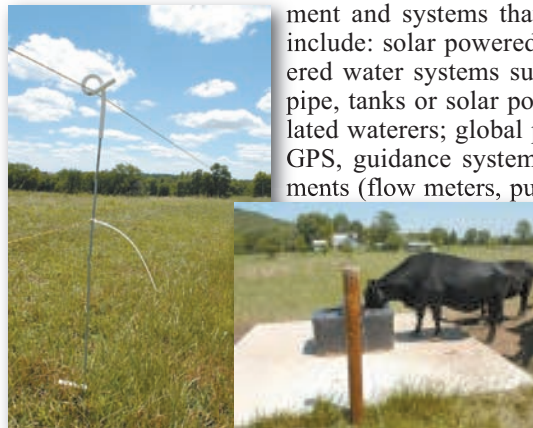
The department is offering the energy efficiency cost-share grants to agriculture operations statewide for agriculture energy efficiency improvements and renewable energy equipment. The department's Energy Center modeled the reimbursements element of the grant program after the county soil and water conservation districts' cost-share program. Funding is provided by the Department of Energy through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

What does the program offer?

The program offers cost-share grants to farm operators, owners or renters. The energy efficiency cost-share grants program reimburses farmers up to 75 percent for the purchase cost of qualify energy efficient equipment and systems, up to \$5,000 per applicant. Some farmers are divided into multiple tax units. Each individual tax unit owns part of a farm unit is eligible for a cost-share grant, but the unit must be owned by different individuals. A farm is defined as any place from which \$1,000 or more of agriculture products were produced and sold or normally would have been sold during the year.

What kinds of project are eligible?

Items eligible for reimbursement include purchased energy efficient equipment and hardware, but do not include time and labor spent installing or operating the equipment. Some examples of identified equipment and systems that qualify for funding include: solar powered systems (solar powered water systems such as pumps, panels, pipe, tanks or solar powered fencers); insulated waterers; global positioning system or GPS, guidance system; irrigation improvements (flow meters, pulse irrigator, drip irrigation system, irrigation nozzle replacement, pipe upgrade, tier 3 engines); dairy facility improvements (variable frequency drives, variable



speed drives, improved refrigeration efficiency "plate cooler", heat reclaimers, high volume low speed fans, compressed air improvements); swine facility improvements (high volume, low speed fans); poultry facility improvements (high volume, low speed fans); upgrade/new grain dryers; lighting upgrades, motion sensors or timers; conservation tillage equipment; high efficiency electric motors; biomass furnaces/boilers for other than poultry houses. The department is also looking for new and innovative technologies that can be applied to agriculture energy efficiency.

What projects are not eligible?

Purchased equipment and hardware are eligible but not time and labor. Transfer of ownership of equipment before five years will require Energy Center approval, or reimbursement to the Missouri Department of Natural Resources. Equipment purchased prior to signing a contract is not eligible. In addition to project list above, the Department of Natural Resources employees and their immediate families are not eligible to receive the cost-share grants. Public entities are also not eligible.

How to sign up?

Those interested in applying to the energy efficiency cost-share program may complete an application form located on the departments Web site at www.dnr.mo.gov/transform/EnergizeMissouriAgriculture.htm. Application forms are also available at the Livingston County Soil and Water Conservation District office or by contacting the department's Energy Center at 573-526-1723. The approved paper form is the only hard copy that will be accepted. Please do not print out the electronic version for use as a hard copy submission. Application forms must be post marked and mailed to the department or sent electronically through the Web Site by April 20, 2010.

How are the grant recipients selected?

A technical review panel will rank all applications using several factors, including energy saving potential and feasibility. The department will notify the approved applicants shortly after the application close-out date. Grant recipients' are required to sign agreements or contract with the department laying out the terms and conditions of the project. Purchases made before the agreement is signed do not qualify for reimbursement.

If you are interested in the Energize Missouri Agriculture Program and would like more information regarding the eligible projects, selection and notification process is available by contacting the department's Energy Center at 573-751-2254, visiting the Missouri Department of Natural Resources' Energy Center Web page www.dnr.mo.gov/transform/EnergizeMissouriAgriculture, or by contacting the SWCD office at 660-646-5687 ext. 3.

New Form Mandatory for USDA Programs

All person interested in participating in any Federal Agriculture programs will need to complete a new form recently put out by the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Form CCC-927 is the 2009 and/or 2010 Consent to Disclosure of Tax Information for Individual and form CCC-928 is the 2009 and/or 2010 Consent to Disclosure of Tax Information for Legal Entity.

Information submitted on these forms will be used to determine eligibility for program benefits and failure to furnish the requested information will result in a determination of **ineligibility** for program benefits.

Forms may be picked up at your local Farm Service Agency or Natural Resource Conservation Service office. Forms are to be filled out and mailed to the Internal Revenue Service by the producer.