



# Agricultural Energy Management Plans (AgEMP)

## What is an AgEMP?

The 2008 Farm Bill provides authority to use EQIP financial assistance funds for payment of practices and conservation activities involving the development of Conservation Activity Plans (CAP) that combine specific land use objectives associated with a renewable resource with a comprehensive management plan that addresses all of the natural resource concerns within an agriculture or forestry operation. An Agricultural Energy Management Plan (AgEMP) is a CAP unique to the farm’s headquarters, and is developed to assist the producer in identifying techniques and/or equipment that may be used to reduce energy use and save money.

Approximately 1,000 on-farm AgEMPs (Energy Audits) in 29 states will be funded through EQIP in fiscal year 2010. All counties in Maryland are eligible to participate in this initiative.

## Program Application and Planning Process:

- To be eligible for EQIP a complete application must be submitted to a local NRCS office by close-of-business (COB) **June 18th, 2010**.
- Applications will be selected for funding within 7 days of the sign-up closing date.
- All approved contracts must be obligated to contracts by July 14th.
- In order to receive funding for the AgEMP, a qualified Technical Service Provider (TSP) registered in TechReg must be used by the producer.
- Audits are currently available only on **headquarters**.

## Payment Rates

Payment rates are estimated to be 75 percent of the actual cost of developing an AgEMP. The payments are fixed and do not change based on what the Technical Service Provider (TSP) charges.

Livestock Production Systems (AU = Animal Units)		Non-Livestock Production Systems	
Farm Size	Payment Rate	Gross Annual Farm Income	Payment Rate
< 70 AU (small)	\$937.50	< \$10,000 (small)	\$937.50
70-210 AU (med.)	\$1,125	\$10,000 to \$24,999 (med.)	\$1,125
211-2,500 AU (large)	\$1,500	\$25,000 to \$50,000 (large)	\$1,500
>2,500 AU (x large)	\$2,625	>\$50,000 (x large)	\$2,625

For more information, visit [www.md.nrcs.usda.gov](http://www.md.nrcs.usda.gov).