Dairy Farm Energy Audit Program

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Michigan dairy producers can reduce their on-farm energy usage by participating in a Farm Energy Audit. Michigan State University, the Michigan Agriculture Electric Council and your local electrical power provider are gearing up to assist farmers with on-farm energy audits. Energy usage in all areas of the dairy farm will be examined during the farm energy audit process.

Electrical usage on the dairy farm for lighting, milk cooling, ventilation, water heating, and milking system operation will be evaluated to determine if your systems are operating in an energy efficient manner. The audit will make recommendations on system changes when it is economical to reduce electrical usage.

The energy audit program also will examine the efficiency of farm machinery and equipment usage. The audit programs will match the proper size of your tractors to the proper size of farm implements. The program will make sure your equipment tires are properly sized and properly inflated to assure efficient operation.

If irrigation energy is used on the farm, the audit program will examine the efficiency of your irrigation systems. Audits of energy usage in on-farm crop drying equipment also will be completed as part of the program.

Farm Energy Auditors are being trained around the state to perform on-farm energy audits. Several electrical power companies in the state are providing energy audits for their clients. Contact your electrical power supplier to see if they are participating in the energy audit program.

A list of trained energy auditors can be accessed at the Web site for the Michigan Agricultural Electric Council at http://maec.msu.edu/ag_auditors.htm.