2008 Farm Bill – Energy and NRCS

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USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
Energy in the 2008 Farm Bill

Title II – CONSERVATION
Subtitle F – Environmental Quality Incentives Program
Section 2501. Purposes of EQIP

... “(3) providing flexible assistance to producers to install and maintain conservation practices that sustain food and fiber production while –

(A) enhancing soil, water, and related natural resources, including grazing land, forestland, wetland, and wildlife; and

(B) conserving energy;”

This gives us the authority to address energy conservation in EQIP
Conservation in the 2008 Farm Bill

• Working Lands Conservation Programs
  – Environmental Quality Incentives Program
    • Agricultural Water Enhancement Program
    • Conservation Innovation Grants (CIG) - Energy grants and Air Quality Initiative
  – Conservation Security Program
  – Conservation Stewardship Program
Energy in Conservation Programs
Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)

- Increases budget authority (above 2002 Farm Bill) by $3.5 billion
- Reaffirms conservation work on non-industrial private forest lands
- Expanded to include energy conservation benefits associated with conservation practices

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<th>EQIP Authorized Funding (billion $)</th>
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EQIP - Conservation Activity Plans

- Financial assistance available to develop conservation activity plans that focus on specific conservation needs
- Links EQIP, conservation planning, and FOTG
- CAPs providers must be certified Technical Service Providers (TSPs) through TechReg
- Four Eligible conservation activity plans for WI in FY 2010:
  - Agricultural Energy Management Plan
  - Forest Activity Plan
  - Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan
  - Organic Transition Plan
Agricultural Energy Management Conservation Activity Plan AgEMP(122)

- AgEMP contains strategy producer wishes to explore and addresses on-farm energy problems and opportunities. (energy audit)
- 8 states volunteered to pilot: CO, CT, LA, ME, MD, SD, WV, WI.
- Financial Assistance payment through EQIP: up to 75% of cost (up to 90% for socially disadvantaged and beginning farmers & ranchers)
WI AgEMP Pilot Project 2008

- Combine all energy elements of a farm into a comprehensive energy plan utilizing NRCS planning process
- Modeled after Comprehensive Nutrient Mngt Plans (CNMP)
- Elements
  - Energy Audit
  - Baseline of energy use on-farm
  - Opportunities to conserve energy & cost-share programs
  - Renewable Energy production potential (certified assessor)
  - Assessment of the farm’s carbon footprint
  - Opportunities to adopt systems that conserve energy
EQIP Practices that Achieve Energy Efficiency

- Prescribed Grazing
- Nutrient Management
- Feed Management
- Pest Management
- Residue Management (No-till)
- Irrigation Water Management
- Windbreak Shelterbelt Establishment
- Anaerobic Digester, Controlled Temp
- Cover Crop
Energy in Conservation Programs
EQIP- Conservation Innovation Grants

• Conservation Innovation Grants (CIG) – Regular
  (Energy is one of the funding categories)
  – Emphasis on transfer of innovative technologies and
    approaches and increased participation of specialty
    crop producers
  – FY 2009: 4 energy grants awarded
    Funds awarded = $722,648

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<td>Program</td>
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Energy in Conservation Programs

Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)

- National delivery with ranking
- Emphasis on new enhancements and maintenance of existing conservation
- Five Energy Enhancements offered (no energy audits)
  - Fuel Use Reduction for Field Operations (20%)
  - Solar Powered Electric Fence
  - Pumping Plant Powered by Renewable Energy
  - Recycle 100% Farm Lubricants
  - Locally Grown & Marketed Farm Products (80%)

| CSP Authorized Acres (million acres) |
|-------------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| 2009                          | 2010           | 2011           | 2012           |
| 12.769                        | 12.769         | 12.769         | 12.769         |
Questions?

Feel free to contact me:

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