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Subject: Farm Bill 2007 Official Comments - 12/29/2005 02:18 PM CST
Date Sent: 12/29/2005 02:18:29 CST
Date Received: 12/29/2005 02:43:35 CST

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Question1:

Question2:

Question3:

Question4: EnSave, Inc. (EnSave) believes that a way for farm policy to achieve conservation and environmental goals is to educate and encourage farmers to invest in energy efficiency, pollution prevention, and renewable energy. EnSave supports the expansion of section 9006 of the Farm Bill and strongly encourages funding of Section 9005, specifically energy audits.

EnSave has performed farm energy audits in Vermont, New Hampshire, Maine, New York, Wisconsin, Pennsylvania, and Minnesota. For these northern states, audits are promoted and funded as a way to reduce high energy costs. In other parts of the country, energy costs may not be as high, but other concerns like environmental and water quality are very important. EnSave believes that much can be done to promote farm energy audits and pollution prevention audits as a means to achieve conservation and environmental goals.

Agricultural energy audits can be expanded to capture information about the use of water and energy, the prevalence or absence of recycling practices, fueling, fuel and oil storage, and tillage practices. This information can be analyzed to identify opportunities to conserve water and energy, and to implement better environmental, fuel usage, and tillage practices. This analysis is the first step in educating farmers about how they can be better environmental stewards. Farmers can then take the information in an audit to begin changing their operations.

On one farm that EnSave audited as part of a pollution prevention/energy efficiency (P2/E2) audit, the farmer was dumping 16,000 gallons of water each day into a lagoon, which needed to be pumped. The audit identified that by re-using this water to feed the herd, the farmer would save \$5,000 each year on pumping costs and increase milk production. This also reduced the water runoff.

An audit can also analyze tillage practices, and identify whether switching all or some acreage to no-till/direct seeding would be beneficial. In many cases, switching to no-till direct seeding saves thousands of dollars per year in diesel fuel costs, and reduces diesel emissions. No-till direct seeding can also help preserve wildlife habitat and reduce erosion.

In conclusion, EnSave supports the continuation of Section 9006, and also encourages USDA to seek funding for section 9005. EnSave appreciates the opportunity to comment on this important Bill.

Question5:
Question6: