

Farm Energy Audit Program: Audit Data Collector Job FAQs

Position Requirements:

- 1) Basic understanding of farm equipment
- 2) Basic understanding of electrical equipment
- 2) Strong attention to detail
- 3) Ability to communicate well with farmers
- 4) Ability to learn quickly and follow directions

Most data collectors are college graduates and many have a background in the utility industry, engineering, conservation, or other professional fields. In all cases, a passion for helping farmers save energy is important.

Must have availability to travel to farms spread across a large portion of the state, in order to respond to farm audit requests in a timely fashion.

What will the training consist of?

There will be a half-day of classroom training, followed by one to two days of field training, and a half-day classroom for data entry and final review.

Classroom training

Attendees will receive a step by step overview of a farm energy audit. They will learn about the energy usage on farms, what technologies are used for each sub-sector of agriculture they will encounter, and how to complete data collection forms. They will also learn the process for completing audits within the Farm Energy Audit Program, and will understand their role within that larger process. They will familiarize themselves with the various forms in use in the program and the process used to enroll producers.

Field training

Data collectors will learn how to work with the farmer to get the information needed to complete the data collection forms. They will perform visual inspections of equipment reviewed in class, learn where to find and record name plate information, learn how one piece of equipment interacts with another and get a better understanding of the process flow of the farm operation.

Data Entry and Review

This portion of the training covers entering the data collected into the electronic data collection forms and ties together the previous elements of the training. This is also the opportunity for follow-up questions.

What materials will be provided as part of the training?

Data collectors will receive training reference materials, and copies of all the forms they will need to complete while on the different types of farms.

Please see over ➡

Once trained, what else will data collectors need in order to conduct farm energy audit data collection?

- Appropriate insurance (check with your insurance carrier to make sure your policy covers you, your employees, and the RC&D)
- Appropriate license (Each state is different. Check with your appropriate state authority to find out if any license is needed in order to be on the farm.)
- Data collectors are responsible for providing their own tools and equipment to perform the data collection. Typically, this includes flashlight, screwdrivers, hammer, step ladder, barn boots and/or disposable boot covers, thermometer, and bio-security kit.