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New Statewide Energy Efficiency Program for Maryland Agricultural Producers

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A new program is now available for all agricultural producers in Maryland. The **Maryland Statewide Farm Energy Audit Program** is funded by the Maryland Energy Administration, and administered by Eastern Shore Resource Conservation & Development Council and EnSave, Inc. Other program partners include USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, USDA Rural Development, the Maryland Department of Agriculture, the Maryland Agriculture and Resource-Based Industry Development Corporation, Maryland Association of Soil Conservation Districts, Sustainable Agriculture Research & Education, and Washington County Soil Conservation District.

This program will help farmers reduce their energy costs through farm energy audits and equipment incentives for qualifying energy saving projects.

Farmers who qualify to receive a farm energy audit through this program will pay \$300, just 25% of the normal auditing fee. This cost is fully refunded if they install any of the equipment recommended in their audit reports. An energy audit is not necessary for farmers to complete in order to be eligible to apply for incentives on energy saving projects in this program. Farmers who have recently installed qualifying equipment or are planning to do are welcome to apply.

The program offers incentives for equipment such as energy efficient lighting, heating, refrigeration, ventilation, motors, and more. The incentives cannot exceed 50% of the total project cost, and are based on \$0.06 per kilowatt-hour (kWh) saved for any lighting projects, \$0.08 per kWh saved for any other electric saving projects, and \$1.63 per British Thermal Unit (BTU) saved from any non-electric savings projects.

For more information, interested producers can call Corey Conant, EnSave's Program Manager, at (800) 732-1399, or e-mail Corey at coreyc@ensave.com.

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