



Department of Commerce

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ARRA Energy Efficiency in Northwest Agriculture – \$500,000

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The Washington Farm Energy Program is administered by the Washington State University's (WSU) Extension Energy Program. It provides interested farmers a site-specific energy assessment and management plan, addressing on-farm energy problems and opportunities. The program is designed to give farmers a prioritized set of options to better manage their farm's production by looking not just at on-farm electricity use, but also fuel, fertilizer and other energy-related farm costs. The first phase of the project will be finished in 2011, when participating dairies in Yakima and Thurston counties receive the first assessments. The assessments will be completed by specialists from the local conservation districts, who will be trained in the use of the assessment software by the developers at WSU. An important goal of the program is to position participating producers to take full advantage of grants and other incentive programs, such as NRCS's Environmental Quality Improvement Program (EQIP). In subsequent phases, the program will be opened up to more producers in more areas of Washington agriculture. The Farm Energy Program is supported by energy and agricultural experts from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) and USDA Rural Development; Washington State University's (WSU) Extension Energy Program and WSU's Center for Sustaining Agriculture and Natural Resources (CSANR); Washington State Conservation Commission; Washington State Department of Agriculture; Washington Dairy Federation, state agricultural associations, participating Washington Utilities, the Washington State Department of Commerce and U.S. Department of Energy.