Cost-Share Opportunities for Growers

TDA - TN Ag Enhancement Program (TAEP)  [www.tn.gov/agriculture/topic/ag-farms-enhancement](http://www.tn.gov/agriculture/topic/ag-farms-enhancement)

TDA - Ag Resources Conservation Fund (ARCF)  [www.tn.gov/agriculture/topic/water](http://www.tn.gov/agriculture/topic/water)


Resources

1) Local County Ag Ext. Agents
2) Regional TDA Watershed Coordinators
3) Local NRCS District Conservationists (“DC”)
4) FSA/USDA (Farm Services Agency)
5) Area & State Extension Farm Mgmt Specialists
6) Ag Lenders
7) TSPs
8) TN Poultry Association office
County Ag Extension Agents

TN  https://extension.tennessee.edu/Pages/Office-Locations.aspx
KY  http://extension.ca.uky.edu/county/
AU  http://www.aces.edu/main/#  and select the “offices” tab
GA  http://extension.uga.edu/about/county/
UT Farm Management Specialists  [http://economics.ag.utk.edu/fmas.html](http://economics.ag.utk.edu/fmas.html)

- Ag Economists available to provide financial management support through UT extension
- Free, confidential services to help develop business plans, review budgets, solar proposals, make decisions pertaining to adding or replacing houses, retrofits, and discuss cost-share programs, loans and financing...
TAEP - TN Ag Enhancement Program

- Application C - for Poultry Growers
  - ≥75,000 broilers or ≥10,000 non-broilers
  - 35% cost-share available
  - Maximum $6500 reimbursement
  - Feed bins – capacity of 4 dry tons
    - Foundation; labor if contracted, not to exceed 30% of total project
  - Generators – for poultry house use only
    - 20-40 kW power generation per house
    - Foundation, certain materials, labor with restrictions
  - Propane tanks – for poultry house use only
    - Minimum 1000 gal. (maximum set by regulations), above ground
    - ASME certified, purchased & installed by a licensed TN dealer, foundation, labor up to 30% possible...
Application period Oct. 1 – Nov. 1, 2016 ****

- Application A for livestock producers
- Application B for producer diversification

Eligibility

- Have filed a federal IRS Schedule F (form 1040)
- Be a member of the TN Poultry Association
- Premise ID no longer required, will be issued a TPN (TAEP producer #)

- Receipts dated prior to Oct. 1, 2016 are not eligible
- Funds are not guaranteed

www.tn.gov/agriculture/topic/ag-farms-enhancement
NRCS

EQIP funds for identified resource concerns

- Energy retrofit projects
- AgEMPs
- cNMPs – not at the moment, but do ask
- Litter sheds
- Mortality management – EcoDrums; concrete, sheds for freezers
- Riparian buffers
- Erosion control
- Stormwater mgmt
- Leland cypress and other fast growing evergreens
- Dust screens, etc.

Other programs

ARAP permits...
Contact your local NRCS office to discuss the “On-Farm Energy Initiative” as the resource concern

- This program is available in neighboring states as well; however funding priority and amounts may differ
- Historically underserved producers may be eligible for additional funds
- There are no deadlines or funding periods for signing up; can apply at any time of the year
REAP grant funds, available through USDA for energy efficiency/retrofit projects

- **Deadline to apply is Mar. 31, 2017**
- 25% of the total cost can be reimbursed
- Grants of $20,000 or less are available; or
- Energy efficiency retrofit projects can request unrestricted grants in amounts from $1500 to $250,000
- [www.rd.usda.gov/REAP](http://www.rd.usda.gov/REAP)

- Funds may be used for the purchase, installation and construction of energy efficiency improvements, such as:
  - High efficiency heating, ventilation and cooling systems
  - Insulation
  - Lighting
  - Doors and windows
  - **Replacement** of energy-inefficient equipment
EQIP cost-share $$$ through NRCS for conservation & retrofit projects

- Must be an agricultural producer (schedule F); control or own eligible land
- Comply with adjusted gross income (AGI) for less than $900,000 avg. for the past 3 yrs.
- Be in compliance with the highly erodible land and wetland conservation requirements
- Develop an NRCS EQIP **plan of operation** that addresses at least 1 natural resource concern
- Your local NRCS District Conservationist (DC) will do this plan for you, there is no cost involve
  - Part of this *plan* written by your DC may be to obtain an AgEMP (energy audit)
  - An **AgEMP is required** before applying for lights, motors, insulation, etc. for retrofit projects
  - AgEMP funding for energy audits can be applied for through EQIP and the amount awarded is based on size of the operation.
  - AgEMP energy audits must be performed by a qualified TSP; not by NRCS or the District Conservationist in your county
  - Depending on the fees charged by the TSP your hire, *up to* 95% to 100% *may* be funded by EQIP to help cover the costs of an AgEMP
Additional **REAP** requirements

- Applicants must provide at least 75% of the project cost if applying for a grant only.
- Applicants must provide at least 25% of the project cost if applying for loan, or loan and grant combination.
- Refer to the application form at www.rd.usda.gov/REAP to see where the total project tier falls, for additional required information; projects greater than $200,000 require a technical report.
- An energy assessment or energy audit (AgEMP) prepared by a qualified third party is required, depending on project cost.
- Refer to the REAP regulation and definition on energy assessment or energy audit on page 9 of RD 4280-B at www.rd.usdas.gov/REAP.
- Projects with a total cost greater than $200,000 require an energy audit (AgEMP).
- An energy assessment cannot be used for projects with total costs greater than $200,000.
- EnSave, Inc. is a TPA allied member available to do AgEMPs, assessments and write REAP grants.
  - www.ensave.com/agricultural/agricultural-energy-services/agricultural-energy-audits/
- Contact Adia Holland in TN at (615) 783-1373 or adia.holland@tn.usda.gov or go to www.rd.usda.gov/files/RBS_StateEnergyCoordinators.pdf to find your state’s coordinator.
TVA Energy Right Solutions incentive program – for lighting

- Financial incentives offered for lighting, to change over to LEDs
- Can provide for up to 70% of total material costs, no labor; plus incentive
- $.08/kWh for interior lighting and $.03/kWh for exterior lighting incentive is currently being offered
- Pre-approval is required; cannot be reimbursed for anything purchased prior to being officially approved
- Open enrollment period; apply now while funds are available
- 1st step: obtain an assessment from someone listed on TVA’s approved Preferred Partner Network: http://lakeinfo.tva.gov/web/ers_find_a_contractor/
SOLAR - photovoltaic systems

- **TVA** Green Power Providers Program (GPP)
  - Retail rate paid for energy generation on ≤ 50 kW systems (GSA1)
  - No additional premium offered for 2016 or 2017; *there was a 5¢ premium in ‘15*
  - Enrollment period for 2016 is Jan. 13th through Dec. 16th
  - Webinar to review 2017 programs – Nov. 30, 2016 at 2 pm central; to register: [https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/2646374233008304898](https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/2646374233008304898)

- **REAP** grant funding *may be* available for 25% cost-share
  - REAP funds are *not guaranteed* by USDA
  - Funding is awarded on a competitive basis, there is a scoring system
  - Some solar providers may offer to apply for you; some may charge, some may guarantee the grant funds themselves if not awarded by USDA, some do not offer these services or any guarantees. *Have everything in writing.*
  - Can also self apply; or, can use a TSP consultant such as EnSave, Inc. (802) 434-1826

- **Tax Credits** are possible

- Don’t forget **insurance** for a new system
  - Depreciated value vs. full replacement cost?
  - Roof mount vs. ground mount systems?
  - *Include this* expense of added insurance when calculating the ROI

- Use a qualified third party to **review** all proposals and contracts
  - Area and state extension farm mgmt specialists, TSPs, Ag Lenders, etc.

- Be sure to **compare apples to apples** when pricing systems and determining ROI...
Propane Farm Incentive Program

- Propane incentives for the heating of poultry houses are available through the Propane Farm Incentive Program (FIP) provided by the Propane Education and Research Council (PERC)

- New poultry (swine and greenhouse) heating systems may be eligible for FIP incentives of $0.10/sq.ft., up to $2000, when installed as part of an entire system installation

- It is not a rebate program - the complete heating system must either be installed in new construction or as a conversion from another fuel source

- To download the program guidelines and learn what equipment more specifically qualifies for the program go to www.propane.com/agriculture/programs-and-incentive/propane-farm-incentive-program/

- or contact farmincentive@propane.com
TDEC - Tennessee Natural Gas and Propane Vehicle Grant Program

• The program will assist public, non-profit, and private Tennessee-based fleets with the investment in and purchase of 3 or more natural gas or propane-powered medium-duty and heavy-duty vehicles (min. GVW of 14,000 lbs.)

• Eligible vehicles include dedicated compressed natural gas vehicles, dedicated liquefied natural gas vehicles, and dedicated propane-powered vehicles

• All vehicles must be registered within the state of TN

• Each grant will provide up to 50% of the incremental purchase cost of eligible vehicles, with a maximum grant of $25,000 for each eligible vehicle

• Maximum amount that may be awarded to a grantee shall not exceed $250,000

• Dec. 16, 2016 application deadline - Alexa Voytek, TDEC - OEP, (615) 532-0238

• [Website Link](http://www.tnadvancedenergy.com/theres-still-time-to-apply-for-the-tennessee-natural-gas-and-propane-vehicle-grant-program/)
✓ Go sit down with your Ag Extension agent and just visit
✓ Visit with the DC at your NRCS office, get to know your TDA area watershed coordinator, invite them out to your farm
✓ Visit with your local FSA office, discuss available programs
✓ Talk to a recommended TSP for ideas, and for assistance
✓ Not getting the cooperation and assistance you’d like, or not sure who to ask...
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quarterly newsletter
cost-share info
dates to remember