DAIRY FARM Energy Saving Program

DRI introduces a program to help dairy farms reduce energy costs. DRI will conduct energy assessments (electricity and fuel) on dairy farms in Northern Nevada and California to suggest new methods and equipment that will reduce energy costs.

The Desert Research Institute (DRI), a part of the Nevada System of Higher Education (NSHE), has been funded by USDA to provide this service to dairies that would like to lower their energy bills. DRI has a team of engineers and scientists experienced in conducting energy assessments. Visit our website for more information at: http://www.dri.edu/energy-assessments

The process is: 1) complete the attached questionnaire, 2) provide at least the last year’s electric, natural gas, fuel oil or propane bills (2 years of billing information is preferred) and 3) send the material to DRI. The DRI team will use this information to determine if your farm is a good candidate for an on-site energy assessment or if your farm is already adequately efficient. There is no cost for this part of the process and you will receive correspondence informing you of our recommendation.

If our initial survey indicates that you could benefit from an on-site energy assessment, we will contact you within 2 weeks to determine if you would like to set up a mutually agreeable time for our visit. Our team will need to be at your dairy for several hours to complete the assessment, and will require a knowledgeable escort. The information you provide will be confidential and only your name, location, business code and the estimated energy that can be saved will be reported to the USDA to establish a profile of dairy energy usage. The grant will pay 75% of the assessment cost, with the remaining 25% ($240) being covered by you the client. After the assessment you will receive a detailed report explaining if and where you will be able to reduce energy costs through changing procedures and/or changing or adding equipment. DRI will also prospect for cost effective solar heating possibilities. The recommendations in the report will also include estimates for amount of energy saved per year and simple payback period for any procedural changes or equipment upgrades. In the past, dairies have reported savings of over 35% on their yearly energy bill after similar audits have been conducted.

We are looking forward to working with you. If you have questions please contact me by email at curt.robbins@dri.edu or call 775-674-7129. Please submit the pre-audit questionnaire and 2 years of power bills by mail: Curt Robbins, Desert Research Institute, 2215 Raggio Parkway, Reno, NV 89512 or fax: 775-674-7060.