

# Energy Analysis: The Newly Revised NRCS Agricultural Energy Management Plan

## Questions received at the August 28, 2014 Webinar

1. Will there be an associated "Checklist" document that will go along with the new CAP128?  
Yes. The "Checklist" will be available by October.
2. Will there be higher incentives to have the optional cultural practices completed?  
Various payment schedules are being developed to capture size and complexity impacts to the CAP development.
3. Where does a TSP go to become certified for CAP128? Is certification for all States?  
Certifications are accessed through the NRCS Technical Service Provider page:  
<http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/programs/technical/tsp/>  
Certifications received for CAP128 are for all States.
4. How handle multiple enterprises on a single operation?  
The criteria for the CAP128 require that as a minimum the report address the major activities for the primary enterprise of the farming operation. CAPs may contain recommendations for other enterprises on the farm. Payment schedules have been developed to address operations with multiple enterprises.
5. Are Tables 1 and 3 intended as summary tables or do they need to contain each component evaluated? The intent of Tables 1 and 3 are to provide a summary at least at the "Major Activity" level of the impacts proposed. For those reports that have only a few proposed measures, the tables can contain the information for those alone. But for many reports that contain lengthy recommendations, the totals for the major activity would be all that is needed in Table 1 and 3, separated by buildings if appropriate. For example, four distinct upgrades for four distinct poultry houses should be included in the Table 1 & 3 Summary instead of a single whole farm lighting measure. The detailed savings per individual measure still needs to be included in the report, or its appendix.
6. Section 2 states recommendations to be "sorted by priority of installation". There can be many different criteria; payback, initial cost, energy savings, GHG reductions, equipment requirements, etc. What is NRCS intention here?  
Criteria are not specifically stated for the reasons conveyed in the question. It is left to the TSPs discretion as to how to present the recommendations, and what priority to use. Ultimately, the priorities will be established by the landowner after reviewing the report.
7. Are any sources required for the estimated useful measure life? What are allowable sources? This appears to be left to the TSP.  
NRCS relies on the professionalism of the TSP for these values. Specific references do not need to be included within the report; however, TSP should be prepared to answer where values came from if asked as part of Spot Check Review or otherwise.
8. Will the new column in Table 1 "Estimated Life" have any conflict with our actual CPS lifespan?  
The estimated life in Table 1 is in no way intended to reflect the practice lifespan, as used by NRCS to determine the term at which a practice needs to be maintained by a landowner after installation.
9. How are the GHG numbers calculated?  
The Web link to the NRCS COMET Quick Energy Calculator for converting Energy Savings into Emissions Reductions is located at: <http://www.comet2.colostate.edu/>

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10. When you are talking about aerial map, do mean a site plan showing all features on the site?  
Yes. The aerial map or site plan needs to display the location of all pertinent buildings and equipment discussed in the CAP128 report. (i.e., "north arrow", label any buildings, pumping plants, etc. that are mentioned in the report, others as practical). Labels on map must correspond to labels used in text of report. Google map images are fine. Sketches are fine too, if needed.
11. What if the producer only wants to address a single major activity, (i.e., Grain Drying)? Per ASABE S612, the report must address all the major activities for the primary enterprise, How should this be handled?  
All CAP 128s need to address all major activities associated with the primary enterprise. Whereas, a landowner may choose to not implement recommendations contained in a CAP, they are not permitted to change the criteria by which the CAP is completed. The intent of the audit is to show the landowner all major possible improvements that could save energy. By excluding activities, opportunities could be missed.
12. Is NRCS prepared to adjust payment to producers for large irrigation sites? For example, a one pivot system does not present the same cost to evaluate as 35 pivot systems.  
Various payment schedules have been developed to capture size impacts to the CAP development. More comprehensive schedules are specifically being developed for irrigation.
13. What will be the cutoff date for TSP's to reapply for 128? Will we have an updated list before ranking time?  
The final details associated with the certification of TSPs, previously certified for CAP122 and CAP124, will be posted along with all other CAP128 information at the end of September. This will include programmatic requirements, CAP criteria, payment rates, etc.
14. Is academic literature acceptable for average run times (i.e., ventilation) used to calculate energy use and savings?  
Short of having actual numbers provided by the farm operator for annual run times to use in an audit analysis, the TSP would need to make assumptions of run time in order to complete a calculation of energy usage. Assumptions supported by academic literature add to credibility. The AgEMP should clearly indicate the basis (assumed, measured, etc.) of values used to estimate annual energy savings.
15. Will Table 1 be restricted to measures with less than 10 years simple payback?  
The CAP 128 criteria no longer restrict the display of recommended measures with a simple payback period in excess of 10 ten years in Table 1.
16. Do we need to state our estimated install cost source for every item? We do market research and use averages based on that research. What would we use for a reference in this case?  
No; however, the report should state where cost estimates came from (i.e., market studies, programs, etc.) Values should include cost of equipment and install costs or state so otherwise. There is no need for including specific websites, etc.