

## Reduced-cost irrigation efficiency audits offered

Written by Holyoke Enterprise

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Colorado State University's Center for Agricultural Energy is now accepting applications for reduced-cost irrigation efficiency audits for agricultural producers on the Front Range and Eastern Plains. Each audit assesses the efficiency of up to three center pivot pumps per site. USDA grant funds are being used to lower the cost of these audits. □ An audit will include the following: determination of flow rate, static water level, pumping level and energy use; estimated costs of recommended upgrade(s); estimated savings from upgrade(s); payback periods of upgrade(s); and a written report to the producer.

Options for financing and performing the upgrades will be presented to the producer. The audits will also make participating producers eligible for USDA grant funds to implement the recommendations.

Audits will be scheduled with the applicant. Applicants will be contacted about their application status within two weeks of submission. Applications are easy to fill out and can be found and submitted online at [www.ext.colostate.edu/cae/audits.html](http://www.ext.colostate.edu/cae/audits.html) or can be requested by contacting Cary Weiner at 970-491-3784 or via email at [cary.weiner@colostate.edu](mailto:cary.weiner@colostate.edu). Applications are accepted on a rolling basis.

The CAE has also recently released an online Do-It-Yourself Agricultural Energy Audit and has established a webpage that provides step-by-step guidance for applying for funds for agricultural energy projects through USDA.

Producers can use online wind, solar and anaerobic digestion decision tools to determine if they are good candidates for those technologies and, if so, the estimated costs and savings they might expect from installing them.

The mission of the CAE is to improve the financial positions of agricultural producers and rural Colorado communities while providing solutions to 21st century energy problems.

Affiliated staff and faculty are conducting agricultural energy audits, outreach and research to this end. More information about the CAE—including links to the irrigation efficiency audit applications and decision tools—can be found at [www.cae.colostate.edu](http://www.cae.colostate.edu) .

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