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## **Reducing Farm Energy Costs Goal of MAESTRO Program**

NEOSHO, Mo. -- Three farm operations have already applied for a statewide program designed to reduce costs on small Missouri livestock and poultry farms in southwest Missouri since starting Jan. 21.

Called MAESTRO, or the Missouri Agricultural Energy Saving Team—A Revolutionary Opportunity, the program aims to serve farms that are too small to require a confined animal feeding operation permit.

Farmers can receive a comprehensive energy audit of both their farms and homes. Results of the audits will include detailed recommendations on equipment and other improvements to increase energy efficiency.

Costs of the audits are reimbursed by the grant after implementation of sufficient efficiency measures.

Energy-saving equipment might include more-efficient fans, lighting, heating and cooling, as well as newer pumps and motors.

For more information or an initial assessment to determine if your farm is eligible and an energy audit is appropriate, contact Patrick Davis at the MU Extension Center in Neosho, (417) 455-9500 or online at [www.moagenergysavings.org](http://www.moagenergysavings.org).

Eligible farms can earn a 75% cost-share reimbursement, up to \$5,000 per farm, for costs of implementing their farm operations' energy efficiency retrofits.

Davis will be working throughout southwest Missouri to promote the MAESTRO program, conducting data collections at farms, working with farmers to get data passed on for analysis and helping farmers get technologies installed that will lead to energy savings.

Funding for the program comes from a U.S. Department of Energy block grant.

Program implementation is done by a team from the MU College of Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources; Missouri Department of Agriculture; the Missouri Agricultural and Small Business Development Authority; and EnSave, Inc., a private firm specializing in agricultural energy efficiency. Information also is available from EnSave at 800-732-1399.