



Hmong Agricultural Sustainability Training & Education (HASTE)

PDs: Mai Moua, Ph.D. & Hli Xyooj
Hmong National Development
BFRDP Award # [2017-70017-24015]

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Project Overview




Hmong National Development

- Formed in 1993
- Subsidiary of Hmong American Partnership (HAP)
- National policy and advocacy for Hmong Americans
- Headquarter in Minnesota and sites in CA, AR, MO, OK, NC, WI, GA, and DC

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USDA United States Department of Agriculture National Institute of Food and Agriculture

Project Overview




- Early 2000s migration
- 7000+ Hmong in the Tri-State area of Oklahoma, Missouri, and Arkansas
- Average farm acreage = 50
- Arkansas = 241 Poultry farmers; 40 vegetable farmers
- Missouri = 200 farmers of 30% are vegetable farmers

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Project Overview

Enhance the long-term viability and sustainability of Hmong beginning farms and ranchers (BFRs) and facilitate the success of the next generation of Hmong BFRs through education, training, and technical assistance.



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Project Overview



Poultry Farms


- 50-60% of first year grower cash expenses
- Heating fuel costs can fluctuate
- Mandated upgrading of equipment can be costly

Project Overview

Barriers to Farm Success

- Cultural & linguistic barriers w/USDA
- Access to workshops and education sessions around finance, energy savings, etc.
- Technical Assistance in rural areas





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Project Overview

Energy Audits

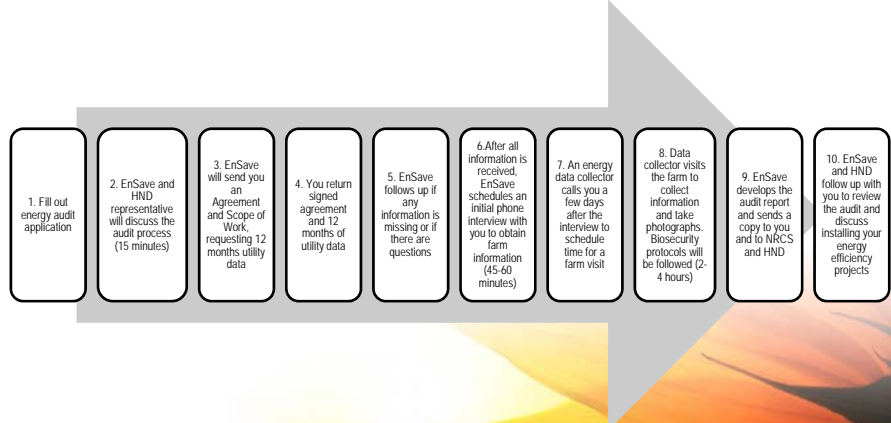
- Energy Efficiency workshop funded by U.S. Department of Energy, attended by NRCS, Tyson Foods, Rural Development
- Reduce energy costs by 40% through free energy audits
- Audited farms apply for federal funding through NRCS to pay for 90% of equipment upgrades




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Project Overview



1. Fill out energy audit application
2. EnSave and HND representative will discuss the audit process (15 minutes)
3. EnSave will send you an Agreement and Scope of Work, requesting 12 months utility data
4. You return signed agreement and 12 months of utility data
5. EnSave follows up if any information is missing or if there are questions
6. After all information is received, EnSave schedules an initial phone interview with you to obtain farm information (45-60 minutes)
7. An energy data collector calls you a few days after the interview to schedule time for a farm visit
8. Data collector visits the farm to collect information and take photographs. Biosecurity protocols will be followed (2-4 hours)
9. EnSave develops the audit report and sends a copy to you and to NRCS and HND
10. EnSave and HND follow up with you to review the audit and discuss installing your energy efficiency projects



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Project Accomplishments

- 31 HASTE Applicants
- 18 Audits conducted; 7 in progress; Total = 25
- Goal = 28 audits per year
- 3 year total = 85 audits



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Impacts and Evaluation

- We use satisfaction surveys, conduct interviews, review case management documents
- Consistently we see 100% increase in the following:
 - Knowledge of operating an energy efficient business
 - Knowledge of USDA programs and services
 - Knowledge of financial resources to support business



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Impacts and Evaluation

- **Donald Vang, Springdale, Arkansas**
 - Owns six chicken houses
 - Applied to NRCS EQIP Program multiple times and was denied
 - HASTE provided audit and understanding to navigate NRCS program
 - *Within 4-months of EQIP application, Mr. Vang made it past the application and ready to apply for cost share funds to install energy efficient equipment*



Lessons Learned & Best Practices



- Energy maintenance of poultry farms are high
- Farmers selling their farms to pay energy debt
- Financial resources are limited
- Emphasize the value of energy audits
- Increase technical assistance

Next Year & After



ENERGYSAVINGS

Next Year & Beyond

- Continue energy audits
- Work with State NRCS to identify future opportunities and to share challenges
- Identify funding to implement energy audit recommendations

Questions?



www.hmong.org / www.hndinc.org