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Energy Training for Agriculture Professionals (EnTAP) Information and Application Instructions

Purpose

The National Center for Appropriate Technology (NCAT) and the Center for Environmental Farming Systems (CEFS) are launching an effort to train Energy Educators in the southern United States.

We will choose 25-30 participants, by a competitive application process, to participate in an intensive three-day energy course in the fall of 2009. We will prepare these Energy Educators to lead training efforts in their communities, helping local people manage and develop their energy resources profitably and sustainably. We hope to offer this course at least annually, building a network for information-sharing and support.

See the Energy Training for Agriculture Professionals website (www.entap.org) for more information.

When and where will the training be held?

The training will take place at the Center for Environmental Farming Systems, near Goldsboro, North Carolina, from September 30 to October 2, 2009.

How much does the training cost?

Tuition, materials, lodging, and meal expenses will be fully paid for successful applicants. We also expect to be able to pay all travel-related expenses.

What will the training include?

- Participants will gain familiarity with renewable energy technologies as well as energy efficiency opportunities commonly available to farms and rural landowners.
- Participants will learn about energy-related developments and opportunities, including networking with agriculture professionals from throughout in the southern United States.
- Participants will learn how to evaluate and plan an energy project, as well as how to conduct a basic energy audit.
- Participants will learn about financial and technical resources, so they know where to look for answers and can make appropriate referrals.

Who is eligible to apply?

- Priority will be given to Cooperative Extension Service agents or specialists. Field staff members from any USDA agency are also eligible to apply.
- Applicants must work in Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, Puerto Rico, or the U.S. Virgin Islands.

How will participants be chosen?

Applicants are not expected to be energy experts. We are looking for:

- Clear evidence of applicant interest and supervisor support;
- Likelihood that the participant will become an active and successful Energy Educator;
- Geographic diversity, with many states and universities represented; and
- Diversity of interests and backgrounds—people who can learn from each other.

Where does the funding for this training come from?

Funding comes from the Southern Region of USDA's Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE) program.

What are the requirements for being certified as an Energy Educator?

- Successfully completing the course;
- Participating in post-training teleconferences; and
- Conducting a successful energy training event within a year of completing the course.

Who is organizing this training?

Co-chairs Mike Morris (mikem@ncat.org) and Steve Moore (steve_moore@ncsu.edu) have led hundreds of courses and workshops on energy and agriculture. Mike is Farm Energy Team Leader at the National Center for Appropriate Technology and holds a Ph.D. in Philosophy from the University of Pittsburgh. Steve works in the Crop Science Department at North Carolina State University and directs the Small Farm Unit at the Center for Environmental Farming Systems. The steering committee for this project includes a distinguished group of agricultural educators and researchers from nine southern states and 14 universities.

Who are the instructors?

Course instructors will include nationally recognized experts on energy efficiency, bioenergy, solar energy, and other forms of renewable energy. Instructors and agenda details will be posted as they become available, at www.entap.org.

How do I submit my completed application?

Save your completed application form and send it as an e-mail attachment to Carol Moore, carol.moore@bellsouth.net

Or mail to
CEFS
Attn: Carol Moore
201 Stevens Mill Rd.
Goldsboro, NC 27530

A supervisor's letter of support is required.

Have a supervisor fill out the Supervisor's Letter of Support form and send it to Carol Moore at one of the addresses above, by either e-mail or U.S. mail. The supervisor's letter can either be attached along with your application form, or it can be sent separately.

When will I find out if I'm accepted?

Participants will be chosen and notified by May 31, 2009.

Why is a letter from a supervisor required?

In order to justify the substantial investment of public funds in each participant's training, we need to know that participants have the full support of their supervisors—both for attending the training and for conducting training in their communities.

Who do I contact with questions?

Contact Carol Moore: carol.moore@bellsouth.net or (919) 273-6322.

What is the application deadline?

Applications and Letters of Support must be received by April 30, 2009.

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