

2006 State Ag. Advisory Council
Energy Discussion Group

Bob Fehr – Group Leader

Curt Judy – Recorder

A total of 16 people met in this group—8 were delegates, 5 were agents, 2 were UK specialists, and 1 was from the Governor’s Office of Agricultural Policy

Bob Fehr presented a report called “Reducing Energy Use in Kentucky.

He said that UK Ag. College specialists are working on energy issues in several departments. The 2002 Farm Bill has a section for “Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency” grants. The Ag. College has created an Energy “Quick Response Team” to evaluate education needs related to energy use by both homeowners and farmers.

Fehr said that a couple of areas of energy use have already been identified for study within the College. They are:

- (1) Tractor fuel efficiency
- (2) Efficient fertilizer use (since large amounts of energy are needed to manufacture fertilizer)

A general group discussion about energy use in agriculture identified these additional areas of concern:

- (3) vegetable cooling
- (4) transportation of goods to market
- (5) Cultural practices (timing of fertilizer applications, etc)
- (6) Energy in tobacco production
- (7) Greenhouse transplant production
- (8) Emphasis on putting legumes into fescue vs. adding nitrogen
- (9) Using grazing systems to reduce forage harvesting expenses
- (10) Developing alternative energy sources
- (11) Increasing use of renewable energy sources (biodiesel and ethanol)

Fehr said that one goal in his department (Biosystems & Ag. Engineering) was to create decision aids to help make various energy-related decisions. He also mentioned that one way to save energy was to co-locate manufacturing facilities so that one process can make use of waste heat generated by another process.