United States Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service

Energy Enhancement Activity – ENR04 - Recycle 100% of Farm Lubricants

Recycle 100% of Farm Lubricants

All farm lubricants such as oils, fluids, or greases, including all mineral-based oils, synthetic oils, or semi-synthetic oils used to reduce friction in equipment and machinery must be recycled. Recycling involves disposal of the lubricants through a recycling company or community recycling program.

Land Use Applicability

This enhancement is applicable on cropland, pastureland, rangeland and forest land.

Benefits

Lubricants are widely used on farms and ranches to reduce friction in a variety of machinery and equipment. Without proper disposal, lubricants enter the environment, especially groundwater or surface water. Good management of these wastes can help protect the quality of the groundwater and of drinking water supplies furnished by the watershed. The first step in reducing potential water quality degradation is to carefully purchase and use only essential products, reuse them when possible and recycle them at a oil recycling centers. Recycled lubricants may be converted back into lubrication oil or used to make asphalt or other oil-based products. It takes less energy to convert recycled oil back into lubrication stocks than to refine motor oil from a barrel of crude.

Criteria

Recycle 100% of lubricants used on the farm through a commercial recycling company or a community sponsored recycling program. Lubricants are defined as oils, fluids, or greases, including all mineral-based oils, synthetic oils or semi-synthetic oils used to reduce friction in equipment and machinery.

Documentation

- Documentation of the types and quantity of lubricants used on the farm during the year.
- Documentation of where and when the lubricants were recycled.