

Another Conservation Success Story...

Montgomery County, Georgia

November 2008

Small Farmer Initiative and Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) Helps Farmer to Keep Going



Land owner Thomas Davis

Thomas Davis farms 30 acres of cropland in Uvalda, Montgomery County.

Davis, a third generation farmer, was raised on a farm and enjoys it. "I was raised on a farm, my father farmed as did my grandfather who bought the farm in 1918. I enjoy farming. I'm trying to keep it going. I'm the only one of my siblings that farms. I rent 20 acres from my brother and sister," said Davis.

The one and only natural resource concern that Davis had was lack of water. He did not

have any water available on the farm for irrigation.

Davis learned about the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) by talking with an employee of the Farm Service Agency. Davis sought the assistance of the NRCS.

Scotty Thomas, soil conservationist with the NRCS in Mt. Vernon, described the resource concern as a water quantity concern of a Small-Limited Resource Farmer. "Mr. Davis applied and was approved for funding through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program's (EQIP) Small Farmer Initiative to install a well and irrigation system to enhance



Land owner Thomas Davis and Scotty Thomas, soil conservationist for the NRCS in Mt Vernon, review some paper work in reference to the irrigation system.

"By leaving it up to nature the produce is poor. Produce will be excellent with the system. My yield of crops will be higher," said Davis.

From world traveler to country boy, hunter and fisherman, Davis' conservation philosophy for future generations is to care for nature. "Protect the land. Do whatever it takes to protect the land. I'm a country boy that's been all over the world, but this is home. I hunt and fish. We need to care for nature."



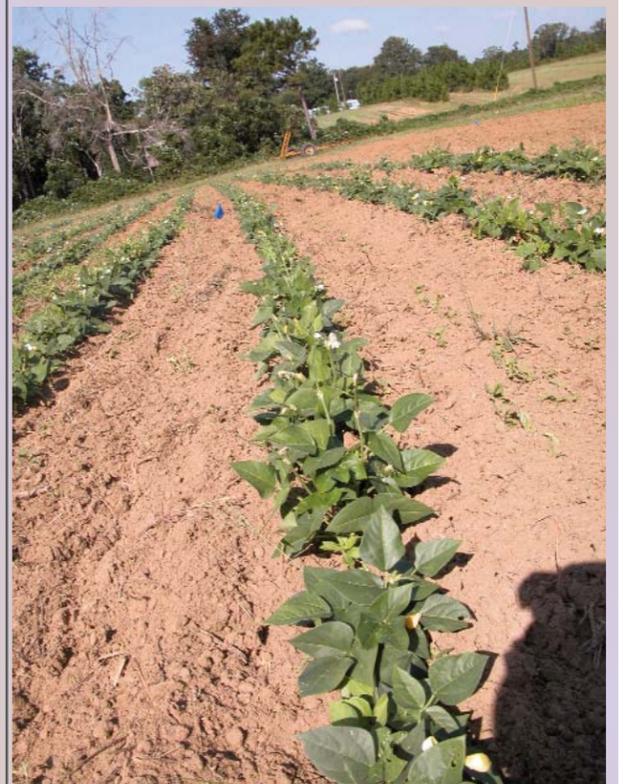
The well has been drilled. The next step is for the contractor to install the irrigation system.

"EQIP is an outstanding program. Without it I would not be able to have the well or the irrigation system that has been installed," said Davis. "The program and the NRCS is easy to work with. I'm very happy with the program."

his small pick-your-own and truck crop vegetable operation," said Thomas.

Davis likes the program and the NRCS. "EQIP is an outstanding program. Without it I would not be able to have the well or the irrigation system that has been installed," said Davis. "The program and the NRCS is easy to work with. I'm very happy with the program."

Davis says he will be producing a better yield of crops with the new irrigation system.



The blue flags shows where the EQIP-funded irrigation system will go.

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Ohoopsee River Soil And Water
Conservation District

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