

# Another Conservation Success Story...

## Coweta County, Georgia

March 2008

### Butcher Family Dairy Farm; Waste Management at Work

Back in 1980, living in Coweta County was considered living out in the country when Bud Butcher bought his dairy located near Newnan, a community less than 30 minutes from the Atlanta International Airport. Back then he was in the country and did not have to worry about urban communities.

Today this is not the case as he has subdivisions cropping up all around him and he is currently milking 320 head of cows twice a day with five full-time employees.

**“Despite the urban sprawl I’m going to maintain a dairy at this location for as long as I can.”- Bud Butcher**

With these subdivisions cropping up Butcher has faced being a part of an urbanizing community in the last few years and because of this the quantity of the water runoff from his dairy is a concern. The dairy utilizes center pivots for irrigation and waste management.

Butcher read about the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) in a newsletter and called for help on his waste management system.

Using the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), to solve the problem with the water quantity, a cover crop was



Above is center pivot irrigation system number two, located on the Butcher Family Dairy Farm.

planted, a 25-acre Bermuda filter strip around the cropland field, as a means to trap agriculture contaminants and produce high quality hay. A new waste management system was linked to a lagoon. Installation of concreted heavy use areas and the development of a certified nutrient management plan to use manure on the land and dispose of the excess manure completed the plan

“NRCS has provided technical and financial assistance.

The above practices were selected to provide a solution for managing the waste and wash water accumulated from a confined dairy operation,” said Kevin Keel, district conservationist for the NRCS.

“The objective of this operation is to breed a high milk producing herd while maintaining environmental quality. Despite the urban sprawl, I’m going to maintain a dairy at this location for as long as I can,” said Butcher.

“Bud Butcher is one of the best dairymen to come to Coweta County and now is the only one left in the county,” said Lisle Bower, district supervisor for Coweta County.

Butcher’s operation has benefited from the application of the conservation treatments in four different areas, efficient use of water, waste management, water quality and high quality hay production.

“Center pivot has allowed for efficient use of water and provided a way to manage waste. Bermuda filter strip has provided a buffer for water quality and led to the production of high quality hay,” said Butcher.

Butcher has this to say to future generations about his conserva-



Bud Butcher of Butcher Family Dairy stands next to a high quality hay bale, produce on his farm.

tion philosophy, “Take care of the land and the land will take care of you.”

The success of this farm is due to Butcher’s devotion to the land, hard work and his ability to run this operation with wise business decisions. Congratulations to Bud Butcher for being the District I 2008 Environmental Stewardship Award Winner.



In the background is one of the subdivisions that is encroaching on the Butcher Family Dairy Farm.

**Butcher has this to say to future generations about his conservation philosophy, “Take care of the land and the land will take care of you.”**

**Rolling Hill RC&D  
678-333-6346**

**NRCS Natural Resources  
Conservation Service  
Kevin Keel 770-251-4283**

**West Georgia Soil And Water  
Conservation District**

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, or marital or family status. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA’s TARGET Center at 202 720-2600 (voice and TDD).

To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326W, Whitten Building, 14th and Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (202) 720-5964 (voice and TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.