

Another Conservation Success Story...

Cherokee County, Georgia

February 2007

Conservation Farming Through the Generations

John Bennett Jr. of Bennett Farms in Cherokee County is a third generation "model" of conservation farming. His family has owned and operated their farm for approximately 100 years.

It began with his grandfather who was a row cropper. Then his father took over the farm and began to convert from row cropping to pastures and poultry. Bennett's father first realized the value of utilizing assistance from federally sponsored programs to improve the quality of his land.

His father received technical and financial assistance from USDA-NRCS to install

He has also been approved for assistance with an animal mortality incinerator, which he plans to start working on this winter. By installing an incinerator, he can dispose of dead bird carcasses in a timely manner, reduce the potential of soil contamination and improve air quality.

When asked if he feels the EQIP program is meeting the needs of the farming community, he replied, "Yes, it's a very good program that gives a lot of encouragement in today's economy."

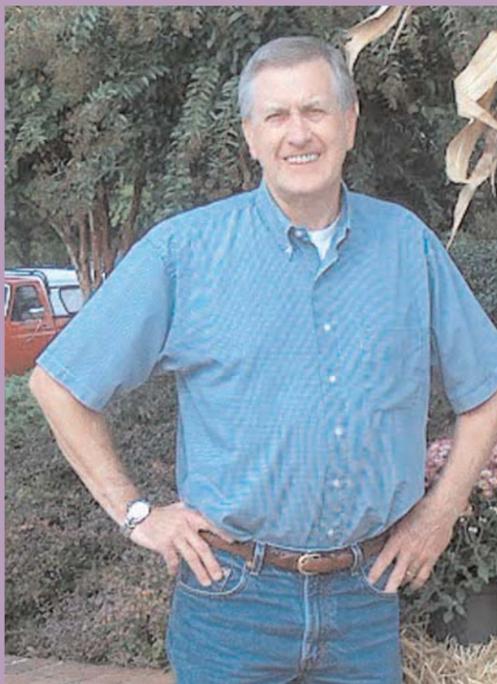
Bennett also stated, "The local NRCS people have been very helpful, and I'm pleased to be working with such a good group."



Bennett's new poultry waste storage facility.



Bennett received technical and financial assistance through EQIP for this stream crossing.



John Bennett's family has owned and operated their farm in Cherokee County for approximately 100 years.

drainage tiles in his pastures. The installation of this best management practice allowed more land to be utilized for his beef cattle grazing operation.

After John took over the farm, one of his main goals was to "preserve and improve the land for his grandchildren." He has been actively involved with the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) for many years now.

John has received technical and financial assistance from USDA-NRCS for fencing, heavy use areas, stream crossings, prescribed grazing, nutrient management, pest management and a poultry waste storage facility.

**"EQIP is a very good program that gives a lot of encouragement in today's economy."
—John Bennett, JR.**



Previously the site of row crops, the farm has been converted to pastures and poultry.

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