

Another Conservation Success Story...

Union County, Georgia

June 2007

Wolf Creek Farms: A Model Farm

In the late 1990's, Bobby Lance's Wolf Creek Farms was selected to participate in the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Model Farm Program. A team of individuals representing NRCS, The Cooperative Extension Service, The University of Georgia Animal Science Department, and the University of Georgia Mountain Research and Education Center evaluated the conservation needs, livestock management, forage quality and quantity, and livestock facilities.

Handling facility improvements were needed, for both breeding and working activities. Nutrient management, pest management, prescribed grazing, and forage quality needed attention. A section of a stream also needed to be excluded from livestock access.

Previously installed cross fencing is now being used to implement a rotational grazing system. Three of Lance's calves were evaluated in the Georgia Beef Challenge program. The Beef Challenge was established to evaluate the health and performance of calves in a feed lot situation. Georgia calves performed better than the national average and Lance's performed well above the norm.



Pictured Right to Left: Bobby Lance, landowner; Doug Towery, District Conservationist; Brian Lance, son; contractor.

"This generation has to take care of their resources - water, land, and air....so our grandchildren and further generations will have the ability to carry on the farming tradition on this farm and maintain the spirit of farming in Union County." –Janice Lance

"I have found Lance to very dedicated in conservation and all conservation measures. He sincerely believes in practicing conservation and exhibits this by applying best management practices to his operation. He has just done a great job in conserving his resources."
–Jim Dobson,
Blue Ridge Mountain Soil & Water Conservation District Chairman

The results of the assessment led to the development of a plan that included restructuring the livestock handling facilities, which included the installation of over 11,000 sq.ft. of heavy use area protection, additional gates, and heavy panels for livestock segregation.

These improvements were made possible through model farm program assistance.

In addition to working facility improvements, Lance was able to receive training and certification in artificial insemination and was able to purchase the needed equipment to institute his own individual breeding program.

The introduction of various clovers into the existing fescue pasture to reduce the effects of fescue toxicity, and increase forage quality and quantity.

Weed control for thistle and nutrient management applications have been included in this forage management program.



Bobby Lance (right), with his son Brian (left)



Thistle is an invasive weed inedible by livestock.

Chestatee-Chattahocchee RC&D
706-894-1591

 **Natural Resources Conservation Service**
706-745-2794

Blue Ridge Mountain Soil and Water Conservation District