## Another StrikeForce Conservation Success Story...

## **Bulloch County, Georgia**

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## Third Generation Farmer Conserves Resources through CSP

By Amelia Hines, Watkinsville Public Affairs Specialist

For years, it took Morris Prince three times as much energy, money, and labor to farm his cotton fields as it does now. He remembers that it would take him three trips to till the land whereas it takes only one pass these days.

Strip-tilling has made all the difference. "The strip-tilling; I love that. That's the way to go right there," Prince said.

This tilling method saves time and energy by reducing the amount of tillage performed. Crop residue is left intact because it helps protect soil moisture, helps prevent run-off and rebuilds organic matter in the soil. Strip-tilling saves energy and money by not requiring the farmer to makes as many equipment passes as conventional tillage requires.

Prince credits the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and its Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)



The photo above shows one strip-tilled row in Prince's cotton field.

for helping his operation become more efficient. CSP is a voluntary conservation program that encourages

in there signing up for one of the programs," Prince said.



Morris Prince grows 475 acres of cotton and 65 acres of peanuts on his Statesboro farm.

"The strip-tilling; I love that. That's the way to go right there."— Morris Prince

producers to address resource concerns by undertaking additional conservation activities; and improving, maintaining, and managing existing conservation activities.

Prince, who has always tried to conserve natural resources on his property, learned about the program through his involvement on the Bulloch County Farm Service Agency (FSA) committee. One day he was visiting his local FSA office and, "I picked up one of the brochures while I was Prince applied for a CSP and was approved for a five-year long contract in 2011.

In addition to utilizing the strip-till method, Prince has implemented other practices such as cover crop and crop rotation over the last year.

Prince plants wheat and rye during the winter months to limit soil erosion. Every two years he will rotate his cotton fields and plant peanuts. By doing this, Prince helps the soil in those fields build up nitrogen. This helps keep the fields healthy.

Prince said he has seen multiple benefits of the program; benefits that have helped him better manage natural resources on his land for years to come.

Bulloch County is a designated Strike-Force county in Georgia. The USDA Strike-Force Initiative is designated to help relieve persistent poverty in high-poverty counties.

## Central Savannah River Resource Conservation and Development Council

Natural Resources
Conservation Service

Statesboro Service Center 912-871-2605

Ogeechee River Soil and Water Conservation District

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