

Another Conservation Success Story...

White County, Georgia

October 2010

Cleveland Farmer Makes Conservation a Priority

Paul Seabolt runs a very diversified farming operation in White County. It seems that



Land owner Paul Seabolt (left) and District Conservationist Russell Biggers (right) have worked together on various conservation measures for years.

there isn't one thing that the Northeast Georgia farmer does not produce on his 1,200 acre property in Cleveland.

Every eight weeks he raises 200,000 chickens for Wayne Farms. Seabolt grows 250 acres of corn, 400 acres of hay, and dedicates the rest of the land as pasture for 1,000 head of cattle. "It's just nonstop," Paul Seabolt said.

Even though Seabolt dedicates much of his time to making sure every aspect of his operation goes smoothly, he also takes the time to pay attention to conservation concerns.

Seabolt said the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) has been very useful in helping him afford to take steps toward conservation.

The USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) awarded an EQIP contract to Seabolt so that he could address nutrient management, water quality, erosion, and pest management.

A stack house was built on the property near Seabolt's chicken houses to address a nutrient management concern.

The stack house now keeps chicken litter dry and stored until Seabolt needs to use it to fertilize hay fields. District Conservationist, Russell Biggers said, "Without some of the cost-share, Paul wouldn't have been able to do this."

Heavy use areas have also been improved on Seabolt's farm with the help of EQIP funds. The heavy use areas are the sight of watering troughs on the property where cattle can get a good source of clean drinking water.

Heavy use areas also control erosion around the troughs by covering an area around the troughs with a geo-textile fabric, and gravel or concrete. Seabolt used concrete.

A cross-fence around a pond on Seabolt's land also protects water quality. The fence serves as a buffer between livestock and the pond.

Paul Seabolt's EQIP contract also addressed his pest management concerns.

Weeds around his row crops have been treated and sprayed in an attempt to keep them from overtaking the corn that grows on the White County land. Seabolt said his EQIP contract has been a big help. "It

saves us," Seabolt said.

As a member of the White County Farm Bureau, Farmer's Exchange, and the White County Chamber of Commerce's Agriculture Committee, District Conservationist Russell Biggers said Seabolt shows he cares about conservation.

"I think you can see by his participation in programs that he is concerned about natural resources and doing his part to protect resources for the next generation."



200,000 chickens are raised on Seabolt's property every eight weeks.

The 48 year old Paul Seabolt said that he simply wants to be a good steward of the land. "I have tried to preserve water and the land and leave it better than I found it," Seabolt said.

"I think you can see by his participation in programs that he is concerned about natural resources and doing his part to protect resources for the next generation."-Russell Biggers



This \$40,000 Stack House addresses a nutrient management concern by providing dry storage for Paul Seabolt's chicken litter.

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Upper Chattahoochee River Soil
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