

Another Conservation Success Story...

Gwinnett County, Georgia

May 2012

EQIP and CSP Help Sustain Local Urban Farm In Gwinnett County

By Karen Buckley Washington, Lawrenceville

Doug Dillard is living his father's dream of keeping their family farm in production for generations to come.

In the late 1950's, Dillard's father, George, a lawyer and former FBI agent, decided to return to his home state of Georgia and purchase 50 acres of farmland in Gwinnett County's city of Loganville.

"My father spent twelve years after law school working for the FBI in Boston, New York and Washington D.C., but he grew up on a tenant farm in Lithonia, so farming was a part of him," said Dillard.

micro-irrigation system, plant cover crops to improve soil fertility and control erosion. Through the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP), Dillard established a pollinator habitat for bees.

He likes EQIP because the practices that he established through the program were practical, yet the benefits will be felt for years to come. EQIP and CSP helped him make a smoother transition from conventional growing to sustainable practices.

Dillard is now able to extend his vegetable growing season because of the installation of a new high tunnel house. He also has an ample amount of food and habitat for the bees and pollinators to live and reproduce. These conservation practices enabled Dillard Farms to grow fresh fruits and vegetables and sell the produce at local farmers markets and restaurants.



Doug Dillard of Dillwood Farm

"It is not every day that you see people that are passionate about protecting the land and natural resources like Mr. Dillard," said Jerome Brown, NRCS District Conservationist in

walks over his farm and in his willingness to host educational field days at his farm."

Dillard is a true conservationist who wants to keep the land in agriculture - even in an urban county. His goal for the farm is to become sustainable and provide fresh food for

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the local and surrounding communities for years to come.

Lawrenceville. "His father taught him to protect the land and he is continuing those practices today. You can see it in his eyes as he

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High tunnel house with the ends and sides open for ventilation.

Farming was such a big part of his life that George paid for law school by growing and selling vegetables and farm products on that tenant farm. When George returned to the area to practice law, he invested his money in Dillwood Farms.

Following his father's death in 2006, Dillard's top priority was figuring out how to transition from conventional farming to sustainable farming practices.

With a call to the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) in Lawrenceville, Dillard learned how to preserve his farm, grow chemical-free fruits and vegetables in a natural environment and establish conservation practices on his land.

Through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), Dillard installed a



Crops growing in high tunnel house can be planted earlier in the growing season.

Upper Ocmulgee River Resource Conservation and Development

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Gwinnett County Soil And Water Conservation District

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