

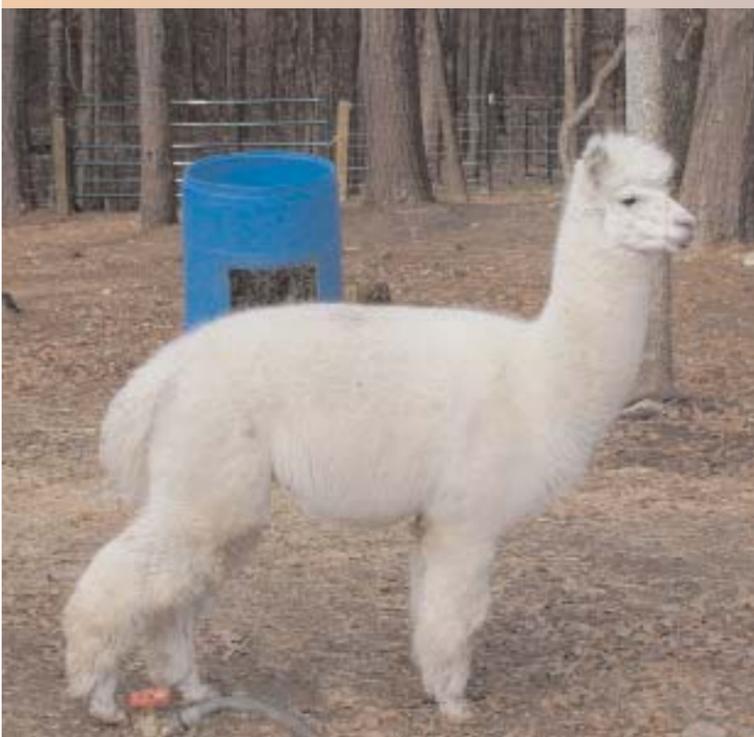
Another Conservation Success Story...

Dekalb County, Georgia

October 2006

EQIP Helps Metro-Atlanta Farmer Find a Nitch in Alternative Livestock

Retha Logan, a small urban farmer in DeKalb County, is a perfect example of how conservation works just as well on small acreage as on large farms. Logan raises Alpacas.



Alpaca's soft, crimped fleece is taken once a year with no harm to the animal. The fiber is warmer, lighter, and stronger than wool.

Alpacas are non-traditional animals that are rare in Georgia.

Originally from the Andean Mountains, Alpacas are captivating, mystical creatures that seem to sooth one's soul with their beauty.

Alpacas are the rarest of all domestic livestock, and their fiber is used to create valuable, durable, alpaca products that can be worn on the body or displayed in the home.

Their soft, crimped fleece is taken once a year with no harm to the animal.

The fiber is processed into

valuable retail products, ranging from socks to coats and teddy bears to rugs.

It is documented that the hypoallergenic fiber never wears out or stains, is lightweight and incredibly warm. The fiber is warmer, lighter and stronger than wool. Alpaca farming provides a more relaxing farm experience, which is perfect for Logan as a self employed computer contractor.

Also, Alpacas can be raised on small acreage, such as the 5.5 acres Logan has developed.

Logan contacted the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) in Lawrenceville in 2003 about the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP). She had water quality concerns and wanted advice.

A conservation plan for Logan's farm included pipeline and fencing, all of which was completed in

2004.

NRCS, with the assistance of Dr. Mark Latimore, from the Fort Valley Extension Service, is also working with Logan on forages that are palatable



Assisted by EQIP funds, Retha Logan has installed new fencing and watering systems. She is continuing to work on forages that are palatable for Alpacas.

for Alpacas. Logan's farm is a prime example of conservation at work on the small farm. It just goes to show that it is not the acreage, but the farmer's commitment that puts conservation on the ground and protects our environment!



The rare and beautiful Alpaca thrives on Retha Logan's small farm in Dekalb County, Georgia.

 **NRCS** Natural Resources Conservation Service

770-963-9288

Dekalb County Soil And Water Conservation District

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