

Another StrikeForce Conservation Success Story...

Baker County, Georgia

June 2012

Asian Farmer Named AAPI 2011 Farmer of the Year

Adam Nguyen is a self-proclaimed city boy who took a chance on a life in the country.

"I closed my eyes and took the opportunity," Nguyen remembered.

That was five years ago. Now, the poultry farmer owns and operates AKC Poultry with his



Adam Nguyen was named AAPI Farmer of the Year for 2011.

brothers Kevin and Charles. The broiler operation raises birds from birth to eight weeks old.

The Arlington farm consists of eight houses that hold 23,000 birds each. That's 184,000 birds that live on the poultry farm during two months and that translates into tons of litter.

In Nguyen's case, managing 20 tons of litter in a short amount of time became overwhelming. A fellow farmer suggested that Nguyen visit his local USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) office to seek assistance in addressing his resource concerns.

Soil Conservationist Eugene Barber in the Newton office was able to help Nguyen figure out a way to address his nutrient management and water quality concerns.

Through a 2008 Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) contract, Nguyen has been able to construct a 40x65 square foot

stackhouse on his property that helps him better manage his litter.

"NRCS helped get the litter off the ground so it wouldn't contaminate the water," Nguyen explained.

Before the stackhouse was built on the property, Nguyen wasn't able to properly store the litter and they had to purify any water that they used from a nearby well.

Nguyen and his brothers were also able to purchase an incinerator with the help of financial assistance provided through their EQIP contract. A destructor incinerator offers a better option for disposing of dead birds. By both burning the dead birds and decomposing of litter by using the stackhouse, Nguyen has decreased the chances of disease and bio-hazard contamination on the property.

"They helped me try to have a cleaner water system and much better environment. And, we don't have a problem with disease and all that," Nguyen explained.

Barber said, "He's good. He's on top of things. He is a good farm operator."



EQIP funds assisted Nguyen in building a much needed stackhouse on his property. The 40x65 sq. ft. facility helps him manage and store several tons of litter each month.

Because Nguyen is such a good farm operator and conservationist, he was selected by the Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) Emphasis Program as the 2011 Farmer of the Year for the entire nation.

"I thought that was pretty cool. I didn't think I would win that."

Nguyen said he plans to use this

recognition and his relationship with the NRCS to inform others on the importance of being a responsible farmer.

"I can show future generations that you can make your place a cleaner and better place to live," he explained.

Baker County is a designated StrikeForce county in Georgia. The USDA StrikeForce Initiative is designated to help relieve persistent poverty in high-poverty counties.

"NRCS helped get the litter off the ground so that it wouldn't contaminate the water,"—Adam Nguyen



AKC Poultry is able to house 23,000 broiler birds in each of its eight chicken houses.

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