

# Another Conservation Success Story...

## Treutlen County, Georgia

November 2008

### Small Farmers Initiative Helps Widow Fix-up and Maintain Farm

Located in Treutlen County outside of Soperton is a 120-acre farm owned by Glynece Lumley, a 75 year-old grandmother, determined to maintain the farm as long as she can for her children. She has 35 cattle, two mules, and one horse.

Her late husband, Joe Lumley Jr., a share cropper, bought the land about 1969, built the barns and home and started farming on his own. He started the farm with a loan from the Farmers Home Administration farming tobacco

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— Lumley

and cotton, but today Glynece Lumley runs cattle.

Lumley had a number of natural resource concerns. Her fences were falling down, her watering area would turn to mud when it rained and she had to buy a lot of hay.



Lumley's new fence that was constructed using EQIP. The fence runs the back side of her pastures and keeps the cattle out of the wet area.

Lumley was unaware of the programs offered by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). When she went to check on the Livestock Assistance Program at the Farm Service Agency she asked about assistance to improve her fences. They told her of the NRCS. Lumley attended a NRCS informational meeting in Vidalia to get more information.

Using the Small Farmer Initiative, a component of the Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP), she applied for assistance to help fix her conservation concerns. "NRCS developed a conservation plan with Mrs. Lumley. She was approved for EQIP to: install a heavy use area protecting the watering facility, drill a well for adequate water supply, and



Glynece Lumley (right) shows Sidney Lanier, district conservationist for the NRCS in Swainsboro her concrete heavy use area and her water station. She used concrete because she does not like gravel.

install fencing for use exclusion to keep the cattle out of the wetland area. Mrs. Lumley is also planting clover in her pasture in cooperation with a Grazing Lands Conservation Innovation Grant to reduce nitrogen application," said Sidney Lanier, district conservationist for the NRCS in Swainsboro.

Lumley feels that the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) is an outstanding program that helps small farmers. "There is nothing I do not like about EQIP. The fact that they helped me! I'm so proud that I got the help. I would have had to sell my cows otherwise. And it's so wonderful that the NRCS will help farmers like me that cannot help themselves," said Lumley

So far Lumley likes what the NRCS has done to help her. "The conservation treatments have tremendously helped with my watering area. The watering station is healthier and more effective and it allows for rotational grazing. We have put up two fences in the past, that should last the rest of my life, to keep the cattle out of the wet areas," said Lumley.

Lanier said, "She is the first cooperator in our office that installed a concrete pad for her heavy use area." "I do not like gravel. The cows will walk on it and the gravel will pack down into the mud. This is permanent you do not have to keep replacing it," said Lumley.

Lumley's conservation philosophy is simple. "We need to preserve the land for future generations. I'm leaving my farm better than when we moved here."

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