

Another Conservation Success Story...

Worth County, Georgia

July 2005

Soil Erosion/Water Conservation Problems!

Chris and Jeffery Young own and operate several acres of cropland and pasture in Worth County where they grow cotton, peanuts and occasionally watermelon.

Continued drought has resulted in the use of center pivot irrigation systems to water their crops. When the rain finally came, the fields would erode. Soils had little water-holding capacity

“Once we started using strip tillage, we noticed that no water left the field when we irrigated. Before when we irrigated we noticed that water was leaving the field in the row middles and taking some soil with it.”—Chris Young

because of continuous low residue crops.

There was little use of cover crops.

Conservation Solutions!

Chris and Jeffery Young were already using terraces, grassed waterways and contour

farming but with intensive low residue crops, soil erosion was still a significant problem.

They began trying conservation tillage as an alternative method to the plow and harrow. They then began using cover crops and strip tillage.

They currently are using the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) to help offset the cost of using strip tillage along with cover crops.

They are also following a conservation plan that includes nutrient and pest management.

Chris has been farming since 1986 and Jeffery has been farming since 1992. Both are full time farmers. They farm their land together with their father Billy. Billy is ‘semi-retired’ and helps his sons plant and gather the crops.



Jeff Young (L) and Chris Young (R)

Conservation Pays!

Jeffery and Chris are converting to conservation tillage with cover crops mainly because of economics. But they are also concerned about their land and water, as these are the resources that produce the crops.

Both feel they want to leave the land and water in better condition than when they first started farming.

Middle South Georgia District Supervisor James Trammell said, “I have

known Chris and Jeffery since they were born.

I noticed them trying strip tillage over the last couple years and they now seem to be expanding to all their acreage.”

Conservation practices like this one can be used to treat many natural resource conservation problems.

EQIP is administered by NRCS and covers up to 75 percent of approved conservation practices.

“We feel the use of strip tillage will reduce our erosion and water losses as well as save us some labor costs.”—Jeff Young



NRCS District Conservationist Jim Napier (R) reviews a conservation document with James Trammell, Middle South Georgia Conservation District Supervisor.

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**Middle South Soil And Water
Conservation District**