

Another Conservation Success Story...

Catoosa County, Georgia

October 2006

Farming for Generations in Catoosa County

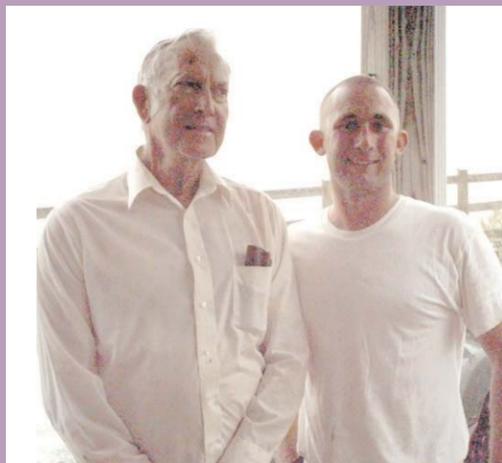
James Ramey of Catoosa County has been in the beef and poultry farming business for most of his 60+ years. About ten years ago, he was joined in the family business by his grandson, James Lyles.

Agency with technical assistance through the Lafayette Field Office of Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), they obtained some cost-share help. The CCRP assisted with streambank exclusion fencing.

The Rameys have been working with the South Chickamauga Creek Land



Streambank restoration on East Chickamauga Creek was accomplished by technical assistance from NRCS and cost share assistance through the South Chickamauga Creek Land Treatment Watershed Project.



James Ramey (L) has been in the beef and poultry farming business for most of his 60+ years. His grandson, James Lyles (R) joined the family business 10 years ago.

Mr Ramey was one of the first local farmers to begin "dead bird composting." His compost operation was up and running in the early 1980's before it became a common and approved practice.

Three years ago, the Rameys acquired the abandoned dairy farm next to theirs. This added about 400 more acres for their business. Unfortunately there was no fencing on the new property. But thanks to the Continuous Conservation Reserve Program (CCRP), administered by the Farm Services

The PL566 has helped the family to decommission a lagoon, restore streambanks, install several heavy use areas, install cross fencing and watering facilities to allow for rotational grazing, and build a waste storage structure and compost for poultry facilities that were constructed on the additional acreage.

Ramey's property is intersected by Bandy Road. In order to intelligently make use of all the land, they have developed a lane that actually runs under the road in order to safely move cattle and equipment without causing any traffic issues.

The Rameys are very enthusiastic about all the help they have received from Cindy Askew, District Conservationist and Bill Henderson, Soil Conservation Technician.

They report that NRCS has been an aid in "total farm planning."



The Ramey's new stackhouse in operation. The Rameys have been ahead of the trend in conservation practices since the 80's when they first began dead bird composting.

Treatment Watershed Program (PL566) for years.

NRCS has been an aid in "total farm planning!"

-James Ramey



New cattle watering system on the Ramey's Farm.

CCRP

The Continuous Conservation Reserve Program reduces soil erosion, protects the Nation's ability to produce food and fiber, reduces sedimentation in streams and lakes, improves water quality, establishes wildlife habitat, and enhances forest and wetland resources.

It encourages farmers to convert highly erodible cropland or other environmentally sensitive acreage to vegetative cover, such as tame or native grasses, wildlife plantings, trees, filterstrips, or riparian buffers. Farmers receive an annual rental payment for the term of the multi-year contract. Cost sharing is provided to establish the vegetative cover practices.

Limestone Valley RC&D
706-625-7044

 **NRCS** Natural Resources Conservation Service
706-638-2207

Catoosa County Soil And Water Conservation District

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