

# Another Conservation Success Story...

## Spalding County, Georgia

August 2009

### Spalding County Farmer Gets Help with Water Supply and Rotational Grazing for Cattle Herd

"I have exactly what I want—1,840 ft. of pipeline and a new well," said Gwendolyn Murphy.

A second generation farmer from Spalding County, Murphy, she grew up across the road on a farm her parents bought in 1929. Today she owns 3.5 acres of that land and another 98.99 acres she acquired on her own.

Inspired by her mother who always had a business of some kind, Murphy raises 42 beef cattle.

Murphy tells it like this. "I was in the office in McDonough and he heard me talking and told me to come over. The next thing I knew they presented me this program," Murphy laughs.

The program she is talking about is the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP). Through EQIP, Murphy has been able to implement a rotational grazing system where cattle can be moved from pasture to pasture. Watering fountains give the cattle easy access to water and keeps them out of the river.

"I think it's (EQIP) a wonderful program. It certainly has helped me. I've looked down the road at the drought. It (EQIP) was a blessing for me. I won't have to buy as much feed," she added.

As for the cattle, they used the watering fountains right off! "I was real happy I was in the program; I'm really pleased with it," she said.

She has this advice for future generations, "Education! You've got to understand what you have."

For more information about EQIP and other conservation programs, contact your local USDA-NRCS office.



Gwendolyn Murphy poses with her beloved pet.



NRCS Technician Barclay McDaniel (Left) and District Conservationist Shawn Ford pose beside the new well constructed to provide a steady supply of water to the cattle herd.



Fencing allows cattle to be rotated, giving the grass a chance to regrow.

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She was in the local USDA service center one day talking with personnel from the Farm Service Agency and Steven Cook, an NRCS technician, heard the conversation and invited her over.

This watering fountain is designed to prevent evaporation. The red floaters are pushed down by the cattle allowing them to get a drink.



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