

Hardin County Students Get Hands On Experience in Conservation through EQIP



On February 11, 2005 several Hardin County High School students had an opportunity to enhance their natural resources by planting hardwood tree seedlings on a Hardin County Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) contract. Landowner Fred H. Gillham was approved for a FY 2004 EQIP contract to stabilize an eroding stream bank and plant six acres of hardwood trees on an area in his hayfield that was too steep to manage for hay production.

Mr. Gillham contacted local TWRA Wildlife Officer Tim Turrentine to help coordinate the project. Tim in turn contacted the Adamsville High School agriculture teacher, who allowed his class to participate in a field trip to get the tree planting done in a group effort.

Approximately 1500 white oak, saw tooth oak, and persimmon seedlings were planted that day with the help of some power augers and lots of labor from the students. Both the landowner and the TWRA officer were pleased to turn unproductive land into good upland wildlife habitat, and the students got some good hands-on tree planting experience.

NRCS District Conservationist Mark Roberts said "I am amazed at the enthusiasm and work ethic of the students. This project demonstrates that when we work together we can accomplish much more than any of us can do alone. Students had an opportunity to participate in a project that will provide environmental benefits that will last beyond their lifetime."