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News Release

USDA-NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE LAUNCHES SUCCESS STORY PROJECT HIGHLIGHTING TOP CONSERVATIONISTS

ATLANTA, GA, March 21, 2006--James E. Tillman, Sr., State Conservationist for the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) in Georgia today announced the launch of the "Success Story Project" during activities at Governor Sonny Perdue's Ag. Day celebration in Atlanta.

The Success Story Project entails the release of feature stories on outstanding conservationists in Georgia.

"Georgia has some of the best environmental stewards in the nation," Tillman said. "Each day, these conservationists are taking measures to provide a better environment for all of us while producing food and fiber that is the envy of the world," Tillman added.

The stories will be provided to the news media and available via the worldwide web at the agency's website at <http://www.ga.nrcs.usda.gov/news/success.html>

The first seven stories feature stories from Dawson, Dodge, Haralson, Laurens, Rabun, and Worth counties. Highlights are below:

Dawson County -- Ben Overstreet

Dawson County farmer Ben Overstreet is a poultry farmer living upstream of the major metropolitan area of Atlanta. Overstreet has hosted visitors from all over the country who have come to see his streambank revetment project.

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Dodge County -- Eastman-Dodge Recreation Department

Eastman-Dodge Recreation Department planned to construct a new community soccer field and gymnasium, with the help of a private Engineering firm. Read how NRCS assisted the Recreation Board in implementing erosion and sediment control practices, while saving taxpayers \$30,000.00.

Haralson County -- Bill White

Life-long Haralson County livestock farmer Bill White is a role model conservationist in his area. Read about White's plan to stabilize barn traffic as well as his commitment to conservation.

Laurens County -- Bobby & Jan Allen Family

When Bobby and Jan Allen installed a new water trough for the cows on their Dudley farm, shown here, little did they know that the conservation plan would include the adoption of two goldfish.

Laurens County -- Reggie Faulk

Reggie Faulk's farm is along the Gator Creek in Laurens County. Faulk has increased his crop production, eliminated soil erosion and even sees quail on his land, through his conservation efforts.

Rabun County -- Robert Mitcham

Rabun County farmer Robert Mitcham is a seasoned conservationist with a long history of working with NRCS and other USDA agencies. Mitcham has witnessed the changes taking place in the farming industry and discusses his thoughts on the future of farming and conservation.

Worth County -- Chris and Jeffery Young

Landowners Chris and Jeffery Young, shown here, grow cotton and peanuts in Worth County. Strip tillage along with pest and nutrient management plans are helping them produce more crops, while protecting the land.

NRCS helps people help the land. For more information on conservation programs and practices in Georgia, visit <http://www.ga.nrcs.usda.gov>.