

Another Conservation Success Story...

Bulloch County, Georgia

June 2007

Georgia Grazing Land Conservation Coalition Transforms Farm in Bulloch County

Dennis Akins enthusiastically calls his Georgia Grazing Land Conservation Coalition (GGLCC) project “back forty to front forty.”

According to Akins, “my pasture and cows were on the back of the farm just taking care of themselves. The cows grazed on land that would not grow anything but grass because it was so low and wet.”

Akins has received cost-share in the past from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) for planting trees and making drainage improvements; however, he was not aware of cost-share assistance from groups like the Georgia Grazing Lands Conservation Coalition (GGLCC) until local conservationists informed him about the opportunity.

Akins used the GGLCC program to plant grass, and install fence and water lines.

He also fenced in planted pines so he could use the acreage for winter cover and browsing.

“My cows graze land that was planted in cotton, soybeans, and peanuts in the past. My peanut and cotton profit margins have almost disappeared, but we can see a profit in cows and tobacco,” offers Akins.

Akins’ cows have moved from the back of the farm to the front of the farm where they are managed on a daily basis and record keeping is more than an old note pad thrown on the dash of the truck.

“I wish more cost-share programs could work as easily as the GGLCC project worked for us,” Akins said.

What is GGLCC?

The Georgia Grazing Lands Conservation Coalition (GGLCC) was organized in 1996 in response to national activities emphasizing grazing land management. Following in the footsteps of the Grazing Lands Conservation Initiative (GLCI) National Steering Committee, the GGLCC is a steering committee of livestock and forage producers that represent some of the strongest and most active conservation and producer groups in Georgia.

The Grazing Lands Conservation Initiative's (GLCI) mission is to provide high quality technical assistance on privately owned grazing lands on a voluntary basis, and to increase the awareness of the importance of grazing land resources.

The GLCI is carried out through coalitions of individuals and organizations functioning at the local, state, regional and national levels. The coalitions are livestock producer organizations, scientific and professional grazing resource organizations, conservation and environmental groups, state and federal natural resource and agriculture agencies, and other interested groups.



“I wish more cost-share programs could work as easily as the GGLCC project worked for us!”—Dennis Akins

Akin’s cows now graze land that was once planted in cotton, soybeans, and peanuts.

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