

Another Conservation Success Story...

McDuffie County, Georgia

December 2006

Tommy Thompson Goat Dairy

Blue Moon Cheese Farm, previously owned by Lynn and Cyd Masters, honored as Conservationists of the Year for their dedication to conservation is now owned by Tommy and David Thompson. The operation is now Country Plum Farm, a goat dairy operation located in McDuffie County.

The farm is one of only two certified goat dairies in Georgia. It is certified as a Grade A dairy. The Thompsons' operation presently consists of 75 registered Nubian goats, which are milked twice a day. Plans are to increase the herd to 250, and to add LaMancha goats which produce more milk than Nubians.

Blue Moon Cheese is available in five different varieties, including lemon delight, cracked pepper, herb and meat log, garlic and chives, and plain. Blue Moon Cheese is distributed in Athens, Greensboro, N.C., Aiken, Savannah, and in most of the finer restaurants in Augusta areas.

NRCS worked closely with the previous owners from day one, to get the Dairy operation started. They have continued with the current owners.

The Thompsons have participated in the Environmental Quality Incentive Program and the Georgia Grazing Lands Conservation Coalition Program.

Practices planned through these programs include: prescribed grazing system; nutrient management; pest management; watering trough; pipelines; hay barn and herd health pen.



Registered Nubian goats at the Country Plum Farm



The Country Plum Farm in McDuffie County is one of only two certified goat farms in Georgia. It is certified as a Grade A dairy!

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.

Georgia's grazing land program emphasizes proper management of all resources associated with livestock production. Equal emphasis is placed on livestock and pasture management, as well as on livestock handling and watering facilities, supplemental feeding strategies, and hay storage, testing and feeding practices.

Management alternatives that promote efficient use of resources are demonstrated on working farms across Georgia, making them readily available educational examples for livestock producers in the surrounding area.

Additionally, management alternatives and recommendations are described in a variety of publications and hands-on management tools. The cornerstone of the Georgia NRCS grazing lands program is the technical assistance our Field Office conservationists provide to livestock producers on a daily basis.



Side view of the the Country Plum Farm dairy barn

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Conservation Service

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McDuffie County Soil And Water
Conservation District

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