

Projects . Successes . Partnerships

 **NRCS** Louisiana
Conservation Update
United States Department of Agriculture . Natural Resources Conservation Service

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**What makes this
farm more efficient?**

**Solar-Powered
Livestock
Watering
System**

**Calcasieu
Parish
Success**

July 2013

Stories from the Field

**Tailwater Recovery System
in Richland Parish**

**Livestock Shade Structures
in Tangipahoa Parish**

A cooperative partnership with local
Soil and Water Conservation Districts and
Resource Conservation and Development Councils (RC&D)

HELPING PEOPLE HELP THE LAND

The Conservation Update is distributed monthly by mail and e-mail.

If you would like to receive monthly issues of the Conservation Update, please send your mailing address or e-mail address to:

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On the Cover



With assistance from the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, Jay Duhon installed a solar-powered livestock watering system on his farm. To learn more about his new watering system, see pages 4 and 5.



Jay Duhon's farm is located next to the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway. If you look closely in the background of the photograph below, you will see the top of a boat passing on the waterway.



 Follow us on YouTube: <http://www.youtube.com/user/LouisianaNRCS>

 Follow us on Twitter: http://twitter.com/NRCS_Louisiana

Notes from the State Conservationist



This month's issue of *Conservation Update* spotlights three farmers who are using non-traditional methods to achieve greater production, increased profits, and healthier natural resources on their farms.

Solar wells, tailwater recovery systems, and livestock shade structures are not seen every day on Louisiana's farms; however, as more farmers explore new ways to conserve water and energy and improve the health of the soil, I am certain these practices will become commonplace.

Every farm is unique. The spotlighted producers elected to implement innovative conservation systems on their farms to address resource concerns—and they were a good fit for their operations. If you are interested in one of these systems, our local office will work with you to determine if the system is a right fit for you and your farm.

Sarah Haymaker
State Conservationist
Louisiana



State Conservationist Kevin Norton is on detail assignment to Washington, DC, to work on Senator Debbie Stabenow's staff to help draft the language of our nation's next Farm Bill. Sarah Haymaker is serving as State Conservationist until Kevin Norton's return.

A directory of our offices is included on the last page of this publication.



Louisiana Ag Facts

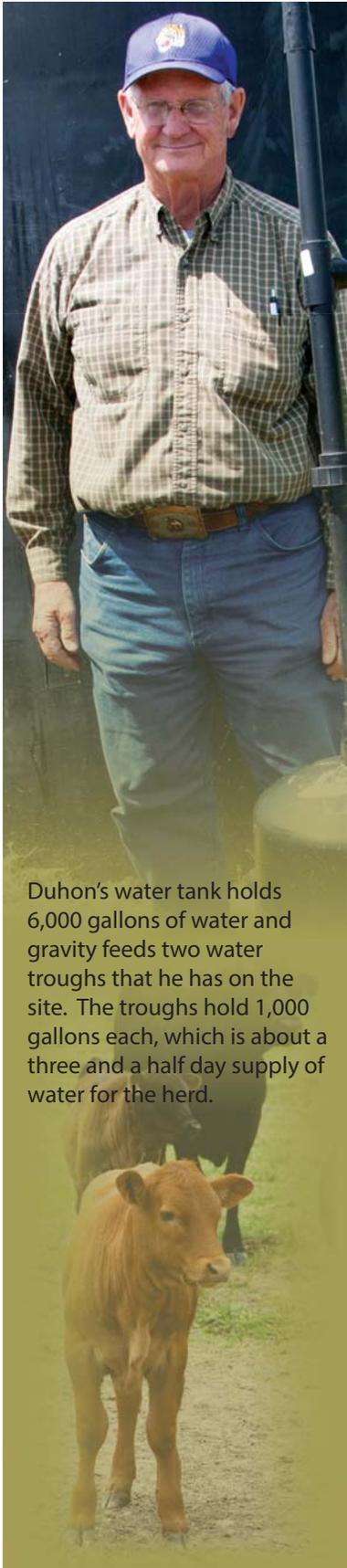
2012 Louisiana cattle/calf operations:

Producers: **10,875 cattle/calf producers**

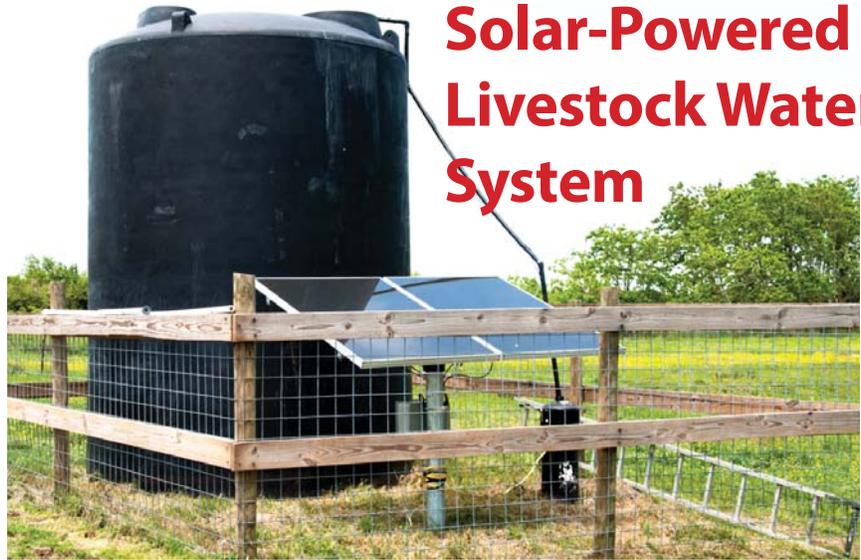
Total Production: **610,818 cows**

Gross Farm Value: **\$498,861,711**

LSU AgCenter 2012 Agriculture and Natural Resources Summary.
<http://www.lsuagcenter.com/agsummary/2012>



Duhon's water tank holds 6,000 gallons of water and gravity feeds two water troughs that he has on the site. The troughs hold 1,000 gallons each, which is about a three and a half day supply of water for the herd.



Solar-Powered Livestock Watering System

"Conservation means constantly improving what you started with."

Jay Duhon has been farming in Calcasieu Parish for over 20 years, and he has faced many challenges during those years. Hurricanes, saltwater intrusion, and drought would have slowed down a lot of people—or stopped them—but not Jay Duhon. These challenges just made him a stronger and wiser farmer—and an innovator.

For example, to meet the watering needs of his livestock, Duhon did not just install a new well, he installed a solar-powered livestock watering system. His new watering system is not only totally powered by the sun, it is very easy to disassemble and move in case of bad weather (meaning . . . hurricanes).

"I can take down the two solar panels in 30 minutes," said Duhon. "It would be much harder (to take down) if I were using another alternative energy source like wind mills. This way, I know that I can protect my investment in case of bad weather."

The Natural Resources Conservation Service helped Duhon with the design and specifications for the watering system and provided financial assistance through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP).

The system consists of two solar panels, a water pump, and a water tank. The solar panels collect energy from the sun and power the pump that fills the water tank. A float in the water troughs activates the pump when water levels go down.

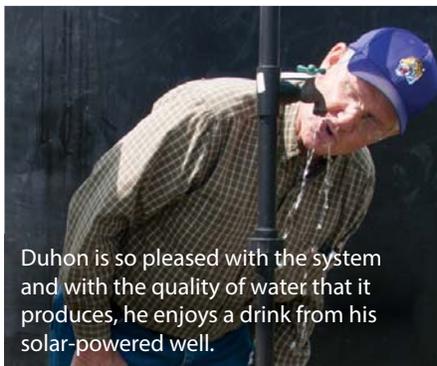




... to leave it better for the next generation. Jay Duhon

Before having the solar livestock watering system, Duhon was relying on rainfall and the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway for water for his livestock.

“The Intracoastal Canal is never completely fresh because of salt water intrusion from the salt water lakes of south Louisiana,” said Duhon. “The well helps guarantee that my cows will have good fresh water.”



Duhon is so pleased with the system and with the quality of water that it produces, he enjoys a drink from his solar-powered well.



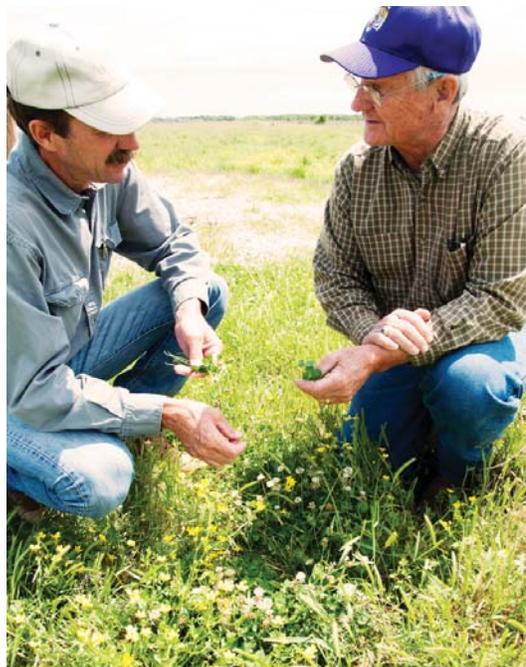
Jay Duhon Conservationist

Master Forage Producer of the Year

In 2008, Duhon began working with NRCS through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) to plant rye grass and clover to help restore the forage on his property. He also started rotationally grazing his cattle to regulate the growth of the clover and decrease the impact the cattle had on the land. His land now produces so much forage that he is able to stockpile a portion of the grass for winter grazing, eliminating the need for hay.

Because of the conservation practices that Duhon implemented, his cattle are thriving. He said 44 of the calves he produced last year weighed over 650 pounds at sale, and the rest weighed at least 475 pounds.

Duhon has been so successful with his grazing management, he was recently named Master Forage Producer of the Year by the Louisiana Forage and Grazing Council.



For more information on the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) or solar-powered livestock watering systems, visit your local USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service office. An office directory is included on the last page of this publication.

Stories from the Field

Tailwater Recovery System Success in Richland Parish

Greer Farms Partnership grows corn, soybeans, and rice on 1,800 acres in Richland Parish, Louisiana.

Irrigation management is a primary concern on the farm, and when two irrigation wells began to struggle to meet the irrigation needs on 200 acres of the farm, Edward Greer explored drilling replacement wells. Test wells indicated that the new wells would have to be drilled extremely deep because there is very little water in the area. Drilling new wells was going to be very costly for the farm.

Mr. Greer determined the best, most cost efficient way to address the farm's irrigation needs would be to construct a tailwater recovery system.

Working with the NRCS Rayville Field Office through NRCS' Mississippi River Basin Healthy Watersheds Initiative Cooperative Conservation Partnership Initiative Bayou Lafourche Project, Greer Farms received technical and financial assistance to construct a tailwater recovery system. This system was designed to capture the tailwater from 750 acres of irrigated land and make it available to the 200 acres of the farm that were struggling for water. A rock rip rap weir was constructed along with a sump area, and a re-lift pump was installed to lift the water

out of the sump area to irrigate the 200 acres.

Greer Farms was able to improve irrigation efficiency while improving soil and water quality on their farm. Approximately 125 acres of a corn and soybean rotation and 50 acres of rice are now easily watered from the tailwater of 750 acres of irrigated land.

Utilizing the tailwater from other areas on the farm has allowed Greer Farms to lessen its impact on the local aquifer and increase crop production in fields that were struggling.

Submitted by: Larry Phillips, District Conservationist, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, Rayville Field Office



Utilizing the tailwater from other areas on the farm has allowed Greer Farms to lessen its impact on the local aquifer and increase crop production in fields that were struggling.

Helping People Help the Land

Providing Shade for Livestock: Good Grazing Management Practice

Harold Perrilloux has a small urban cattle farm in Tangipahoa Parish near Hammond. In recent years, storms damaged the shade trees on Mr. Perrilloux's farm, limiting shaded areas for his cows to just a few trees and shrubs along the pasture's edge. This situation was detrimental to these trees and shrubs, and to the quality of the grass along the edge of the pasture.

The Tangipahoa-St. Helena Soil and Water Conservation District and Amite Field Office worked with Mr. Perrilloux to plan and install a shade structure in his pasture through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program. Shade structures are a tool that conservation planners use to provide producers with an alternative for cattle shade

when normal shading areas are not available. Adequate shade is necessary to have well-managed pastures. Well managed pastures lead to improvements in water quality in lakes and streams. Properly managed pastures produce thick grass cover which holds back runoff from animal waste, nutrients, and pesticides.

The number of shade structures recommended by conservation planners is dependent upon the number of cattle on a farm. Mr. Perrilloux installed one shade structure on his farm.

Submitted by: Donny Latiolais, 319 Technician, Tangipahoa-St. Helena Soil and Water Conservation District, Amite Field Office



Upcoming Events

Aug 4-6

South Central Region NACD Meeting

The National Association of Conservation Districts will host their South Central Region meeting at the Hilton Hotel in Lafayette, Louisiana, on August 4-6, 2013. To find out more information, contact: mitzi.dohrman@la.nacdnet.net.

Aug 9

Louisiana Chapter of Soil and Water Conservation Society (SWCS) Tour

The Louisiana SWCS will host a tour of the LSU AgCenter Soil Testing and Plant Analysis Lab in Baton Rouge on August 9, 2013. For more information, contact Jason Hardie at (318) 435-6743 or Dustin Farmer at (318) 473-7773.

Aug 27-29

Louisiana Forestry Association

66th Annual Meeting - Visit the NRCS exhibit at the Louisiana Forestry Association's 66th Annual Meeting at the Astor Crowne Plaza in New Orleans, Louisiana, on August 27-29, 2013.

Aug 30

Women in Agriculture Conference

The Acadiana RC&D and NRCS will host a "Women in Agriculture" Conference at the LSU AgCenter located at 157 Cherokee Drive in Crowley, Louisiana, on August 30, 2013. For more information or to register, please contact Angie Fogleman at (337) 262-1766.



Contact Our Offices

Parish	Field Office	Soil and Water Conservation District	Address	Telephone
Acadia	Crowley	Acadia SWCD	157 Cherokee Drive, Suite C, Crowley, LA 70526	(337) 783-5823, ext. 3
Allen	Oberlin	Allen SWCD	309 North 1st Street, Suite 1, Oberlin, LA 70655	(337) 639-4850, ext. 3
Ascension	Donaldsonville	Lower Delta SWCD and New River SWCD	2274 Highway 70, Suite C, Donaldsonville, LA 70346	(225) 473-7638, ext. 3
Assumption	Donaldsonville	Lower Delta SWCD	2274 Highway 70, Suite C, Donaldsonville, LA 70346	(225) 473-7638, ext. 3
Avoyelles	Marksville	Avoyelles SWCD	629 Tunica Drive West, Marksville, LA 71351	(318) 253-9445, ext. 3
Beauregard	DeRidder	Calcasieu SWCD	597 Mahlon Street, Suite B, DeRidder, LA 70634	(337) 463-8555, ext. 3
Bienville	Minden	Saline SWCD	216B Broadway, Minden, LA 71055	(318) 377-3950, ext. 3
Bossier	Benton	Bodcau SWCD	200 Burt Boulevard, Suite 101, Benton, LA 71006-4901	(318) 965-2185, ext. 3
Caddo	Shreveport	Caddo SWCD	1402 Hawn Avenue, Shreveport, LA 71107	(318) 676-3461, ext. 3
Calcasieu	Lake Charles	Gulf Coast SWCD	1400 Highway 14, Suite B, Lake Charles, LA 70601	(337) 436-5020, ext. 3
Caldwell	Columbia	Boeuf and Dugdemona SWCD	7128 Highway 165 South, Suite 2, Columbia, LA 71418	(318) 649-2651, ext. 3
Cameron	Lake Charles	Gulf Coast SWCD	1400 Highway 14, Suite B, Lake Charles, LA 70601	(337) 436-5020, ext. 3
Catahoula	Jonesville	Catahoula SWCD	3545 4th Street, Jonesville, LA 71343	(318) 339-4239, ext. 3
Claiborne	Minden	D'Arbonne SWCD	216B Broadway, Minden, LA 71055	(318) 377-3950, ext. 3
Concordia	Ferriday	Tensas-Concordia SWCD	8331 Highway 84, Ferriday, LA 71334	(318) 757-2455, ext. 3
DeSoto	Mansfield	DeSoto SWCD	211 Washington Avenue, Mansfield, LA 71052	(318) 872-4949, ext. 3
East Baton Rouge	Denham Springs	Capital SWCD	2191 Tower Drive, Denham Springs, LA 70726	(225) 664-1430, ext. 3
East Carroll	Lake Providence	East Carroll SWCD	406 Lake Street, Suite C, Lake Providence, LA 71254	(318) 559-2604, ext. 3
East Feliciana	Clinton	Feliciana SWCD	9752 Plank Road South, Clinton, LA 70722	(225) 683-5496, ext. 3
Evangeline	Ville Platte	Evangeline SWCD	205 Court Street, Ville Platte, LA 70586	(337) 363-6602, ext. 3
Franklin	Winnsboro	Northeast SWCD	616 Riser Road, Winnsboro, LA 71295	(318) 435-6743, ext. 3
Grant	Colfax	Grant SWCD	510 Main Street, Colfax, LA 71417	(318) 627-9903, ext. 3
Iberia	New Iberia	Iberia SWCD	2617 Northside Road, Suite 600, New Iberia, LA 70563	(337) 369-6623, ext. 3
Iberville	Addis	Lower Delta SWCD	7747 Highway 1 South, Addis, LA 70710	(225) 687-2184, ext. 3
Jackson	Ruston	Dugdemona SWCD	1412 Celebrity Drive, Ruston, LA 71270	(318) 255-3136, ext. 3
Jefferson	New Orleans	Crescent SWCD	1041 Rue La Cannes, Luling, LA 70070	(985) 331-9084
Jefferson Davis	Jennings	Jefferson Davis SWCD	2003 Port Drive, Jennings, LA 70546	(337) 824-0975, ext. 3
Lafayette	Lafayette	Lafayette SWCD	905 Jefferson Street, Suite 310, Lafayette, LA 70501-7913	(337) 262-6601, ext. 3
Lafourche	Thibodaux	Lafourche-Terrebonne SWCD	143 Laura Drive, Thibodaux, LA 70301	(985) 447-3871, ext. 3
LaSalle	Jonesville	LaSalle SWCD	3545 4th Street, Jonesville, LA 71343	(318) 339-4239, ext. 3
Lincoln	Ruston	D'Arbonne SWCD	1412 Celebrity Drive, Ruston, LA 71270	(318) 255-3136, ext. 3
Livingston	Denham Springs	Capital SWCD	2191 Tower Drive, Denham Springs, LA 70726	(225) 664-1430, ext. 3
Madison	Tallulah	Madison SWCD	1900 Crothers Drive, Tallulah, LA 71282	(318) 574-4158, ext. 3
Morehouse	Bastrop	Morehouse SWCD	9604 Marlatt Street, Bastrop, LA 71220	(318) 283-7626, ext. 3
Natchitoches	Natchitoches	Natchitoches SWCD	6949 Louisiana Highway 1 Bypass, Natchitoches, LA 71457	(318) 357-8366, ext. 3
Orleans	New Orleans	Crescent SWCD	1041 Rue La Cannes, Luling, LA 70070	(985) 331-9084
Ouachita	Monroe	D'Arbonne/Boeuf River SWCD	2410 Old Sterlington Road, Suite B, Monroe, LA 71203-2668	(318) 343-4467, ext. 3
Plaquemines	New Orleans	Plaquemines SWCD	1041 Rue La Cannes, Luling, LA 70070	(985) 331-9084
Pointe Coupee	New Roads	Upper Delta SWCD	180 East Main Street, New Roads, LA 70760	(225) 638-7746, ext. 3
Rapides	Alexandria	Rapides SWCD	3734 Government Street, Building C, Alexandria, LA 71303	(318) 473-7856, ext. 3
Red River	Coushatta	Red River SWCD	1311 Ringgold Avenue, Coushatta, LA 71019	(318) 932-4352, ext. 3
Richland	Rayville	Boeuf River SWCD	141 Industrial Loop, Rayville, LA 71269	(318) 728-4451, ext. 3
Sabine	Many	Sabine SWCD	570 Highway 171 By Pass, Many, LA 71449	(318) 256-3491
St. Bernard	New Orleans	Crescent SWCD	1041 Rue La Cannes, Luling, LA 70070	(985) 331-9084
St. Charles	New Orleans	Crescent SWCD	1041 Rue La Cannes, Luling, LA 70070	(985) 331-9084
St. Helena	Amite	Tangipahoa-St. Helena SWCD	805 West Oak Street, Suite 1, Amite, LA 70422-2820	(985) 748-8751, ext. 3
St. James	Donaldsonville	Lower Delta SWCD and New River SWCD	2274 Highway 70, Suite C, Donaldsonville, LA 70346	(225) 473-7638, ext. 3
St. John	New Orleans	Crescent SWCD	1041 Rue La Cannes, Luling, LA 70070	(985) 331-9084
St. Landry	Opelousas	St. Landry SWCD	5832 I-49 North Service Road, Opelousas, LA 70570	(337) 942-2530, ext. 3
St. Martin	Lafayette	St. Martin SWCD	905 Jefferson Street, Suite 310, Lafayette, LA 70501-7913	(337) 262-6601, ext. 3
St. Mary	Franklin	St. Mary SWCD	500 Main Street, Franklin, LA 70538	(337) 828-1461, ext. 3
St. Tammany	Franklinton	Bogue Chitto-Pearl River SWCD	1111 Washington Street, Franklinton, LA 70438	(985) 839-5688, ext. 3
Tangipahoa	Amite	Tangipahoa-St. Helena SWCD	805 West Oak Street, Suite 1, Amite, LA 70422-2820	(985) 748-8751, ext. 3
Tensas	St. Joseph	Tensas-Concordia SWCD	1223 Plank Road, St. Joseph, LA 71366	(318) 766-3502, ext. 3
Terrebonne	Thibodaux	Lafourche-Terrebonne SWCD	143 Laura Drive, Thibodaux, LA 70301	(985) 447-3871, ext. 3
Union	Farmerville	D'Arbonne SWCD	501 Glory Road, Farmerville, LA 71241	(318) 368-8021
Vermilion	Abbeville	Vermilion SWCD	3221 Veterans Memorial Drive, Suite H, Abbeville, LA 70510	(337) 893-5664, ext. 3
Vernon	Leesville	Calcasieu SWCD	205 North 5th Street, Leesville, LA 71446	(337) 239-2193
Washington	Franklinton	Bogue Chitto-Pearl River SWCD	1111 Washington Street, Franklinton, LA 70438	(985) 839-5688, ext. 3
Webster	Minden	Dorcheat SWCD	216B Broadway, Minden, LA 71055	(318) 377-3950, ext. 3
West Baton Rouge	Addis	Upper Delta SWCD	7747 Highway 1, South, Addis, LA 70710	(225) 687-2184, ext. 3
West Carroll	Oak Grove	West Carroll SWCD	208 South Constitution Street, Oak Grove, LA 71263	(318) 428-9303, ext. 3
West Feliciana	Clinton	Feliciana SWCD	9752 Plank Road South, Clinton, LA 70722	(225) 683-5496, ext. 3
Winn	Natchitoches	Dugdemona SWCD	6949 Louisiana Highway 1 Bypass, Natchitoches, LA 71457	(318) 357-8366, ext. 3



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