

# SENATOR SAXBY CHAMBLISS 2010 LEGISLATIVE REPORT



## 2009 GEORGIA FLOODS

After years of drought, 36 communities in Georgia suffered extreme flood events in 2009.

In April, major flooding hit south Georgia causing widespread damage to property and infrastructure. Early, Miller, Tift, and Worth counties—as well as the cities of Arlington, Nashville, and Valdosta—requested over \$1.8

million for recovery measures.

Much of this was associated with the cost to restore washed out highway stream crossings and other threats to life and property.

During September of 2009, an epic flood inundated the Atlanta Metropolitan Area.

Over \$500

million in damages occurred in 23 counties. To date, 29 communities have requested NRCS technical and financial assistance in response to this disaster.

The communities include but are not limited to Cobb, Douglas, Fulton, and Gwinnett counties as well as the cities of Atlanta, Austell, Berkley Lake, Duluth, John's Creek Milton, Mountain Park, Roswell, Sandy Springs, Stone

Mountain, Trion and Warner Robbins.

Under the agency's Emergency Watershed Protection Program, NRCS can provide assistance to remove debris from rivers, streams and creeks to protect life and property.

They also requested help in stabilizing streambanks at bridges, culverts, other road crossings and utilities to prevent further damage of public infrastructure.



## QUICK FACTS FOR THE STATE OF GEORGIA

**6045** Individuals receiving conservation assistance

### Total conservation cost-share funds

\$16.6 million Environmental Quality Incentives program  
\$1.1 million Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program  
\$4,105,593 Conservation Security Program  
\$3.9 million Wetland Reserve Program

**\$15,294,137** Total conservation technical assistance funds

**\$5.9 million** Total RC&D funds brought to the state

*Twenty three technical service providers are providing service to producers throughout the state.*

*USDA is an equal opportunity employer.*

## USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service

delivers conservation through programs established by the Farm Bill. With passage of this new bill, there is an agency-wide effort to implement a new vision for delivering conservation in the future. We are implementing new strategies to:

- remove barriers to conservation programs
- simplify and streamline processes
- focus on agricultural customers
- encourage participation of non-traditional customers

The 2008 Farm Bill has the potential to become historic for the level of conservation applied to the land. This report includes a brief summary of conservation assistance provided in the 2008 fiscal year.

# GEORGIA NRCS

## Agricultural Water Enhancement Program

In 2009, NRCS entered into two partnership agreements—one with the Flint River Soil and Water Conservation District (FRSWCD) and one with the Georgia Soil and Water Conservation Commission (GSWCC).

Through the FRSWCD partnership, NRCS is working to improve irrigation efficiency. A total of 263 contracts valued at \$1.9 million was awarded to farmers for the purpose of improving irrigation efficiency on 24,000 acres. The NRCS partnership with the GSWCC will help a number of organic producers, and those making the transition to organic production, install conservation practices. Funding for this initiative is scheduled to begin in fiscal year 2010.

## Conservation Security Program

This program came to a close during fiscal year 2008. From 2004 to 2008, NRCS rewarded 261 participants \$22.8 million for their conservation work on 154,000 acres. Contracts will continue through 2010.

## Conservation Stewardship Program

During 2009, over 332 applications were submitted to enroll over 122,000 acres ( 58,000 acres in cropland and 62,000 in Non-Industrial Private Forest Land).

## Emergency Watershed Protection Program

In 2009, NRCS offered technical and financial assistance to 36 counties in response to flooding. In April 2009, major flooding occurred in South Georgia; in September, an epic flood occurred in the Atlanta metropolitan area. Estimates are that well over \$6 million in damages occurred as a result of these flood events.

## Agricultural Conservation Enrollees (ACES)

Georgia has nine ACES employees working throughout the state under this initiative.

## Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)

In 2009, 1,129 farmers benefited from \$14.8 million in EQIP funds.

These producers enrolled over 96,000 acres in the program. Livestock producers received over 60 percent of the EQIP dollars, with cattle operators utilizing \$8.9 million in financial assistance to improve Georgia's water quality.

Producers in South Georgia enrolled to retrofit 286 center pivot irrigation systems from high pressure to low pressure systems. Combined with an irrigation water management plan, this will result in a 20 percent water usage reduction.

## Farm and Ranch Lands Protection Program

Georgia closed on two new conservation easements in 2009 totaling \$4.2 million and protecting 300 acres.

## Grazing Lands Conservation Initiative

This year, the Georgia Grazing Lands Conservation Coalition (GGLCC) embarked on a new project and established model farms to be used for education purposes during field days and other workshops. In addition, the Coastal Plain Grazing System Demonstration Project entered its second year at the Jimmy Carter Plant Materials Center. A herd of 22-25 beef cows are being used to evaluate different grasses.

## Grasslands Reserve Program

In 2009, 46 acres in Oconee County were placed into a permanent easement for \$237,000. NRCS entered into 17 rental contracts for 2,500 acres in six counties.

## Healthy Forests Reserve Program

In 2009, this program was implemented in 26 counties in the Sand Hill area of Georgia. Of the 33 applications received, 6 were selected for funding and will restore 1,000 acres of longleaf pine-critical habitat for the endangered gopher tortoise.

## Plant Materials Center (PMC)

The PMC worked with 11 different studies and 8 field plantings in Alabama and Georgia. Among the projects are the evaluation of plants for pharmaceutical use, a Bobwhite quail restoration study, a release of a switchgrass for use along the South Carolina coast, and nature trail plant

identification.

## Resource Conservation & Development (RC&D)

During 2009, Georgia's 11 RC&D Councils created 35 businesses in the state of Georgia; completed 11 watershed plans, and implemented 265 projects totaling over \$14 million in assistance.

## Soil Survey

Georgia is on schedule to complete the initial inventory of all the soils in the state by 2011. In 2009, work was completed on five soil survey projects. 534,69 acres were mapped in 2009.

## Technical Service Providers (TSP)

Georgia obligated \$320,400 through TSP agreements and through the Agricultural Conservation Enrollees Program in 2009. Seventeen agreements were developed with counties, soil and water conservation districts, and with the National Wild Turkey Federation.

## Watershed Planning

In 2009, NRCS provided technical assistance to nine communities with technical watershed planning. Five watershed plans were processed for local communities.

## Watershed Rehabilitation

Since 2002, Georgia has secured \$11 million to upgrade six high hazard watershed dams. Additionally, 44 dams have been, or are being, analyzed to determine the extent of downstream hazards.

## Wetland Reserve Program (WRP)

In 2009, 11 new easements equaling 2,248 acres were enrolled into the Wetlands Reserve Program. An additional 375 acres were restored in existing WRP easements.

## Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program

Georgia received \$1.1 million in funds this year. With these funds, 123 contracts were approved in 59 counties impacting over 7,700 acres.

# SENATOR JOHNNY ISAKSON 2010 LEGISLATIVE REPORT



## 2009 GEORGIA FLOODS

After years of drought, 36 communities in Georgia suffered extreme flood events in 2009.

In April, major flooding hit south Georgia causing widespread damage to property and infrastructure. Early, Miller, Tift, and Worth counties—as well as the cities of Arlington, Nashville, and Valdosta—requested over \$1.8

million for recovery measures.

Much of this was associated with the cost to restore washed out highway stream crossings and other threats to life and property.

During September of 2009, an epic flood inundated the Atlanta Metropolitan Area.

Over \$500

million in damages occurred in 23 counties. To date, 29 communities have requested NRCS technical and financial assistance in response to this disaster.

The communities include but are not limited to Cobb, Douglas, Fulton, and Gwinnett counties as well as the cities of Atlanta, Austell, Berkley Lake, Duluth, John's Creek Milton, Mountain Park, Roswell, Sandy Springs, Stone

Mountain, Trion and Warner Robbins.

Under the agency's Emergency Watershed Protection Program, NRCS can provide assistance to remove debris from rivers, streams and creeks to protect life and property.

They also requested help in stabilizing streambanks at bridges, culverts, other road crossings and utilities to prevent further damage of public infrastructure.



## QUICK FACTS FOR THE STATE OF GEORGIA

**6045** Individuals receiving conservation assistance

### Total conservation cost-share funds

\$16.6 million Environmental Quality Incentives program  
 \$1.1 million Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program  
 \$4,105,593 Conservation Security Program  
 \$3.9 million Wetland Reserve Program

**\$15,294,137** Total conservation technical assistance funds

**\$5.9 million** Total RC&D funds brought to the state

*Twenty three technical service providers are providing service to producers throughout the state.*

*USDA is an equal opportunity employer.*

## USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service

delivers conservation through programs established by the Farm Bill. With passage of this new bill, there is an agency-wide effort to implement a new vision for delivering conservation in the future. We are implementing new strategies to:

- remove barriers to conservation programs
- simplify and streamline processes
- focus on agricultural customers
- encourage participation of non-traditional customers

The 2008 Farm Bill has the potential to become historic for the level of conservation applied to the land. This report includes a brief summary of conservation assistance provided in the 2008 fiscal year.

# GEORGIA NRCS

## Agricultural Water Enhancement Program

In 2009, NRCS entered into two partnership agreements—one with the Flint River Soil and Water Conservation District (FRSWCD) and one with the Georgia Soil and Water Conservation Commission (GSWCC).

Through the FRSWCD partnership, NRCS is working to improve irrigation efficiency. A total of 263 contracts valued at \$1.9 million was awarded to farmers for the purpose of improving irrigation efficiency on 24,000 acres. The NRCS partnership with the GSWCC will help a number of organic producers, and those making the transition to organic production, install conservation practices. Funding for this initiative is scheduled to begin in fiscal year 2010.

## Conservation Security Program

This program came to a close during fiscal year 2008. From 2004 to 2008, NRCS rewarded 261 participants \$22.8 million for their conservation work on 154,000 acres. Contracts will continue through 2010.

## Conservation Stewardship Program

During 2009, over 332 applications were submitted to enroll over 122,000 acres ( 58,000 acres in cropland and 62,000 in Non-Industrial Private Forest Land).

## Emergency Watershed Protection Program

In 2009, NRCS offered technical and financial assistance to 36 counties in response to flooding. In April 2009, major flooding occurred in South Georgia; in September, an epic flood occurred in the Atlanta metropolitan area. Estimates are that well over \$6 million in damages occurred as a result of these flood events.

## Agricultural Conservation Enrollees (ACES)

Georgia has nine ACES employees working throughout the state under this initiative.

## Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)

In 2009, 1,129 farmers benefited from \$14.8 million in EQIP funds.

These producers enrolled over 96,000 acres in the program. Livestock producers received over 60 percent of the EQIP dollars, with cattle operators utilizing \$8.9 million in financial assistance to improve Georgia's water quality.

Producers in South Georgia enrolled to retrofit 286 center pivot irrigation systems from high pressure to low pressure systems. Combined with an irrigation water management plan, this will result in a 20 percent water usage reduction.

## Farm and Ranch Lands Protection Program

Georgia closed on two new conservation easements in 2009 totaling \$4.2 million and protecting 300 acres.

## Grazing Lands Conservation Initiative

This year, the Georgia Grazing Lands Conservation Coalition (GGLCC) embarked on a new project and established model farms to be used for education purposes during field days and other workshops. In addition, the Coastal Plain Grazing System Demonstration Project entered its second year at the Jimmy Carter Plant Materials Center. A herd of 22-25 beef cows are being used to evaluate different grasses.

## Grasslands Reserve Program

In 2009, 46 acres in Oconee County were placed into a permanent easement for \$237,000. NRCS entered into 17 rental contracts for 2,500 acres in six counties.

## Healthy Forests Reserve Program

In 2009, this program was implemented in 26 counties in the Sand Hill area of Georgia. Of the 33 applications received, 6 were selected for funding and will restore 1,000 acres of longleaf pine-critical habitat for the endangered gopher tortoise.

## Plant Materials Center (PMC)

The PMC worked with 11 different studies and 8 field plantings in Alabama and Georgia. Among the projects are the evaluation of plants for pharmaceutical use, a Bobwhite quail restoration study, a release of a switchgrass for use along the South Carolina coast, and nature trail plant

identification.

## Resource Conservation & Development (RC&D)

During 2009, Georgia's 11 RC&D Councils created 35 businesses in the state of Georgia; completed 11 watershed plans, and implemented 265 projects totaling over \$14 million in assistance.

## Soil Survey

Georgia is on schedule to complete the initial inventory of all the soils in the state by 2011. In 2009, work was completed on five soil survey projects. 534,69 acres were mapped in 2009.

## Technical Service Providers (TSP)

Georgia obligated \$320,400 through TSP agreements and through the Agricultural Conservation Enrollees Program in 2009. Seventeen agreements were developed with counties, soil and water conservation districts, and with the National Wild Turkey Federation.

## Watershed Planning

In 2009, NRCS provided technical assistance to nine communities with technical watershed planning. Five watershed plans were processed for local communities.

## Watershed Rehabilitation

Since 2002, Georgia has secured \$11 million to upgrade six high hazard watershed dams. Additionally, 44 dams have been, or are being, analyzed to determine the extent of downstream hazards.

## Wetland Reserve Program (WRP)

In 2009, 11 new easements equaling 2,248 acres were enrolled into the Wetlands Reserve Program. An additional 375 acres were restored in existing WRP easements.

## Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program

Georgia received \$1.1 million in funds this year. With these funds, 123 contracts were approved in 59 counties impacting over 7,700 acres.

# CONGRESSMAN JACK KINGSTON 2010 LEGISLATIVE REPORT



## EQIP SAVES MONEY

Wayne McKinnon has been farming his entire life. McKinnon Farms, located outside Douglas in Coffee, began as a partnership with his father when he was only 18. In 1977 he purchased his first farm and today he is farming 1,400 acres of crops with help from his son Clay.

Using the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), Conservation

Technical Assistance and the 319 program, McKinnon's resource conservation problems were treated. A stack house was implemented and by providing a covered shelter with a concrete floor, litter was protected from rain, runoff, and wind, preventing excess nutrients from

entering nearby streams. Comprehensive nutrient and pest management plans were developed allowing for safe application of organic and inorganic fertilizers and pesticides onto fields during safe conditions.

The NRCS suggested McKinnon convert from conventional to conservation tillage by planting a winter cover crop and by improving soil quality and wildlife habitat, decreasing soil ero-

sion and increasing water infiltration. High impact sprinklers were converted to more efficient low pressure drops. Allowing water to be dispersed in large drops closer to the crop, decreasing water loss from wind and evaporation.

"They fund projects that benefit the farmer. Projects which directly conserve energy and resources. Because of the shared cost between the farmer and the funded program, it is a more affordable program to take advantage of. It has saved investment money that I can use for other conservation projects. All farmers are stewards of natural resources. As green technology becomes available, it should be implemented. Minimal cost and cost sharing have affected my bottom line in a positive way. We are grateful that these programs are made available to each farmer for the benefit of the community as well as the consumer."

## QUICK FACTS FOR THE STATE OF GEORGIA

**813 CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 1**  
Individuals receiving conservation assistance

**Total conservation cost-share funds**  
 \$1,659,555 Environmental Quality Incentives program  
 \$224,428 Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program  
 \$511,264 Conservation Security Program

**\$2,093,498 Total conservation technical assistance funds**  
**\$517,863 Total RC&D funds brought to the state**

*Twenty three technical service providers are providing service to producers throughout the state.*

*USDA is an equal opportunity employer.*

## USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service

delivers conservation through programs established by the Farm Bill. With passage of this new bill, there is an agency-wide effort to implement a new vision for delivering conservation in the future. We are implementing new strategies to:

- remove barriers to conservation programs
- simplify and streamline processes
- focus on agricultural customers
- encourage participation of non-traditional customers

The 2008 Farm Bill has the potential to become historic for the level of conservation applied to the land. This report includes a brief summary of conservation assistance provided in the 2008 fiscal year.

# GEORGIA NRCS

## Agricultural Water Enhancement Program

In 2009, NRCS entered into two partnership agreements—one with the Flint River Soil and Water Conservation District (FRSWCD) and one with the Georgia Soil and Water Conservation Commission (GSWCC).

Through the FRSWCD partnership, NRCS is working to improve irrigation efficiency. A total of 263 contracts valued at \$1.9 million was awarded to farmers for the purpose of improving irrigation efficiency on 24,000 acres. The NRCS partnership with the GSWCC will help a number of organic producers, and those making the transition to organic production, install conservation practices. Funding for this initiative is scheduled to begin in fiscal year 2010.

## Conservation Security Program

This program came to a close during fiscal year 2008. From 2004 to 2008, NRCS rewarded 261 participants \$22.8 million for their conservation work on 154,000 acres. Contracts will continue through 2010.

## Conservation Stewardship Program

During 2009, over 332 applications were submitted to enroll over 122,000 acres ( 58,000 acres in cropland and 62,000 in Non-Industrial Private Forest Land).

## Emergency Watershed Protection Program

In 2009, NRCS offered technical and financial assistance to 36 counties in response to flooding. In April 2009, major flooding occurred in South Georgia; in September, an epic flood occurred in the Atlanta metropolitan area. Estimates are that well over \$6 million in damages occurred as a result of these flood events.

## Agricultural Conservation Enrollees (ACES)

Georgia has nine ACES employees working throughout the state under this initiative.

## Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)

In 2009, 1,129 farmers benefited from \$14.8 million in EQIP funds.

These producers enrolled over 96,000 acres in the program. Livestock producers received over 60 percent of the EQIP dollars, with cattle operators utilizing \$8.9 million in financial assistance to improve Georgia's water quality.

Producers in South Georgia enrolled to retrofit 286 center pivot irrigation systems from high pressure to low pressure systems. Combined with an irrigation water management plan, this will result in a 20 percent water usage reduction.

## Farm and Ranch Lands Protection Program

Georgia closed on two new conservation easements in 2009 totaling \$4.2 million and protecting 300 acres.

## Grazing Lands Conservation Initiative

This year, the Georgia Grazing Lands Conservation Coalition (GGLCC) embarked on a new project and established model farms to be used for education purposes during field days and other workshops. In addition, the Coastal Plain Grazing System Demonstration Project entered its second year at the Jimmy Carter Plant Materials Center. A herd of 22-25 beef cows are being used to evaluate different grasses.

## Grasslands Reserve Program

In 2009, 46 acres in Oconee County were placed into a permanent easement for \$237,000. NRCS entered into 17 rental contracts for 2,500 acres in six counties.

## Healthy Forests Reserve Program

In 2009, this program was implemented in 26 counties in the Sand Hill area of Georgia. Of the 33 applications received, 6 were selected for funding and will restore 1,000 acres of longleaf pine-critical habitat for the endangered gopher tortoise.

## Plant Materials Center (PMC)

The PMC worked with 11 different studies and 8 field plantings in Alabama and Georgia. Among the projects are the evaluation of plants for pharmaceutical use, a Bobwhite quail restoration study, a release of a switchgrass for use along the South Carolina coast, and nature trail plant

identification.

## Resource Conservation & Development (RC&D)

During 2009, Georgia's 11 RC&D Councils created 35 businesses in the state of Georgia; completed 11 watershed plans, and implemented 265 projects totaling over \$14 million in assistance.

## Soil Survey

Georgia is on schedule to complete the initial inventory of all the soils in the state by 2011. In 2009, work was completed on five soil survey projects. 534,69 acres were mapped in 2009.

## Technical Service Providers (TSP)

Georgia obligated \$320,400 through TSP agreements and through the Agricultural Conservation Enrollees Program in 2009. Seventeen agreements were developed with counties, soil and water conservation districts, and with the National Wild Turkey Federation.

## Watershed Planning

In 2009, NRCS provided technical assistance to nine communities with technical watershed planning. Five watershed plans were processed for local communities.

## Watershed Rehabilitation

Since 2002, Georgia has secured \$11 million to upgrade six high hazard watershed dams. Additionally, 44 dams have been, or are being, analyzed to determine the extent of downstream hazards.

## Wetland Reserve Program (WRP)

In 2009, 11 new easements equaling 2,248 acres were enrolled into the Wetlands Reserve Program. An additional 375 acres were restored in existing WRP easements.

## Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program

Georgia received \$1.1 million in funds this year. With these funds, 123 contracts were approved in 59 counties impacting over 7,700 acres.

# CONGRESSMAN SANFORD BISHOP 2010 LEGISLATIVE REPORT



## 147-YEAR-OLD FARM DEPENDS ON EQIP

Cattle farming is not new to Will Harris – a fourth generation cattleman. He grew up on the same farm he owns and operates today, White Oak Pastures. A farm that has been around since 1866.

Harris learned about the USDA-

Natural Resources Conservation Service as a child growing up on the farm. Harris' conservation concern was an erosion problem and he needed to begin an intensive prescribed grazing system to add additional forage for the cattle.

"He converted over 400 acres of conven-

tionally tilled cropland to permanent pasture and hayland, planting clover and three different types of Bahia and Bermuda grass. This resulted in a significant reduction in soil loss and helped facilitate an effective rotational grazing system, improving forage quantity and quality, livestock health and productivity, the water quality, and helped build organic matter. Will

utilized the Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) and Conservation Technical Assistance from NRCS to plant the grasses. He also received an incentive payment for installing a management intensive prescribed grazing system through the EQIP program," said Karen Reese, program analyst for the NRCS in Cuthbert.

Harris believes EQIP has helped with his conservation concerns. "With the assistance of the NRCS and the use of EQIP I have been able to bring erosion down to zero, build organic matter in the soil and improve water quality. EQIP enables me to engage in practices that make farming more environmentally sustainable that otherwise may not have been affordable. I don't like that there is not enough money available in the program."

## QUICK FACTS FOR THE STATE OF GEORGIA

**1656 CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 2**  
Individuals receiving conservation assistance

**Total conservation cost-share funds**  
\$4,832,738 Environmental Quality Incentives program  
\$232,938 Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program  
\$2,463,792 Conservation Security Program

**\$2,791,694 Total conservation technical assistance funds**  
**\$1,827,599 Total RC&D funds brought to the state**

*Twenty three technical service providers are providing service to producers throughout the state.*

*USDA is an equal opportunity employer.*

## USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service

delivers conservation through programs established by the Farm Bill. With passage of this new bill, there is an agency-wide effort to implement a new vision for delivering conservation in the future. We are implementing new strategies to:

- remove barriers to conservation programs
- simplify and streamline processes
- focus on agricultural customers
- encourage participation of non-traditional customers

The 2008 Farm Bill has the potential to become historic for the level of conservation applied to the land. This report includes a brief summary of conservation assistance provided in the 2008 fiscal year.

# GEORGIA NRCS

## Agricultural Water Enhancement Program

In 2009, NRCS entered into two partnership agreements—one with the Flint River Soil and Water Conservation District (FRSWCD) and one with the Georgia Soil and Water Conservation Commission (GSWCC).

Through the FRSWCD partnership, NRCS is working to improve irrigation efficiency. A total of 263 contracts valued at \$1.9 million was awarded to farmers for the purpose of improving irrigation efficiency on 24,000 acres. The NRCS partnership with the GSWCC will help a number of organic producers, and those making the transition to organic production, install conservation practices. Funding for this initiative is scheduled to begin in fiscal year 2010.

## Conservation Security Program

This program came to a close during fiscal year 2008. From 2004 to 2008, NRCS rewarded 261 participants \$22.8 million for their conservation work on 154,000 acres. Contracts will continue through 2010.

## Conservation Stewardship Program

During 2009, over 332 applications were submitted to enroll over 122,000 acres ( 58,000 acres in cropland and 62,000 in Non-Industrial Private Forest Land).

## Emergency Watershed Protection Program

In 2009, NRCS offered technical and financial assistance to 36 counties in response to flooding. In April 2009, major flooding occurred in South Georgia; in September, an epic flood occurred in the Atlanta metropolitan area. Estimates are that well over \$6 million in damages occurred as a result of these flood events.

## Agricultural Conservation Enrollees (ACES)

Georgia has nine ACES employees working throughout the state under this initiative.

## Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)

In 2009, 1,129 farmers benefited from \$14.8 million in EQIP funds.

These producers enrolled over 96,000 acres in the program. Livestock producers received over 60 percent of the EQIP dollars, with cattle operators utilizing \$8.9 million in financial assistance to improve Georgia's water quality.

Producers in South Georgia enrolled to retrofit 286 center pivot irrigation systems from high pressure to low pressure systems. Combined with an irrigation water management plan, this will result in a 20 percent water usage reduction.

## Farm and Ranch Lands Protection Program

Georgia closed on two new conservation easements in 2009 totaling \$4.2 million and protecting 300 acres.

## Grazing Lands Conservation Initiative

This year, the Georgia Grazing Lands Conservation Coalition (GGLCC) embarked on a new project and established model farms to be used for education purposes during field days and other workshops. In addition, the Coastal Plain Grazing System Demonstration Project entered its second year at the Jimmy Carter Plant Materials Center. A herd of 22-25 beef cows are being used to evaluate different grasses.

## Grasslands Reserve Program

In 2009, 46 acres in Oconee County were placed into a permanent easement for \$237,000. NRCS entered into 17 rental contracts for 2,500 acres in six counties.

## Healthy Forests Reserve Program

In 2009, this program was implemented in 26 counties in the Sand Hill area of Georgia. Of the 33 applications received, 6 were selected for funding and will restore 1,000 acres of longleaf pine-critical habitat for the endangered gopher tortoise.

## Plant Materials Center (PMC)

The PMC worked with 11 different studies and 8 field plantings in Alabama and Georgia. Among the projects are the evaluation of plants for pharmaceutical use, a Bobwhite quail restoration study, a release of a switchgrass for use along the South Carolina coast, and nature trail plant

identification.

## Resource Conservation & Development (RC&D)

During 2009, Georgia's 11 RC&D Councils created 35 businesses in the state of Georgia; completed 11 watershed plans, and implemented 265 projects totaling over \$14 million in assistance.

## Soil Survey

Georgia is on schedule to complete the initial inventory of all the soils in the state by 2011. In 2009, work was completed on five soil survey projects. 534,69 acres were mapped in 2009.

## Technical Service Providers (TSP)

Georgia obligated \$320,400 through TSP agreements and through the Agricultural Conservation Enrollees Program in 2009. Seventeen agreements were developed with counties, soil and water conservation districts, and with the National Wild Turkey Federation.

## Watershed Planning

In 2009, NRCS provided technical assistance to nine communities with technical watershed planning. Five watershed plans were processed for local communities.

## Watershed Rehabilitation

Since 2002, Georgia has secured \$11 million to upgrade six high hazard watershed dams. Additionally, 44 dams have been, or are being, analyzed to determine the extent of downstream hazards.

## Wetland Reserve Program (WRP)

In 2009, 11 new easements equaling 2,248 acres were enrolled into the Wetlands Reserve Program. An additional 375 acres were restored in existing WRP easements.

## Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program

Georgia received \$1.1 million in funds this year. With these funds, 123 contracts were approved in 59 counties impacting over 7,700 acres.

# CONGRESSMAN LYNN WESTMORELAND 2010 LEGISLATIVE REPORT



## EQIP HELPS IMPROVE FARM

Terry Hollis grew-up on a farm in Upson County. "I grew up on this farm watching my dad and uncles' row crop and raising cattle."

Hollis wanted to improve the productivity of his farm so he headed to the local Farm Service Agency (FSA) where he learned about NRCS.

"The farm had been a hobby farm and provided a small supplemental income. I was a factory worker and I wanted the farm to be a more productive operation."

When he visited the Barnesville field office he had a vision for his small farm.

"When Terry came into the office to apply for EQIP, he brought a plan for his farm, he had a vision and he has accomplished it," said Carol Oliver, soil conservation technician for the NRCS.

With the help of NRCS Hollis set up cross fencing to section off streams and create a rotational grazing system. Water ramps were made using heavy use protection and gravel. A well

was drilled and watering troughs were placed in each paddock. Pipelines were laid to each trough and heavy use areas were installed.

Because of overuse and neglect the pastures were worn-down. A plan was established to reseed the paddocks and establish a hay field. The area around the working facility was graded and reseeded using critical area planting and a heavy use area was installed around the feeding tanks.

"With the help of EQIP, I have been able to put in a watering system, fence out streams, build watering ramps, over-seed existing pasture, put up cross fences, and start a rotational grazing system. This has allowed me to run more cattle on less land and be more productive. With the help of EQIP, it is growing into a productive and environmentally sound farm," said Hollis.

## QUICK FACTS FOR THE STATE OF GEORGIA

**959 CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 3**  
Individuals receiving conservation assistance

**Total conservation cost-share funds**  
\$907,111 Environmental Quality Incentives program  
\$61,893 Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program

**\$1,770,147 Total conservation technical assistance funds**  
**\$249,808 Total RC&D funds brought to the state**

*Twenty three technical service providers are providing service to producers throughout the state.*

*USDA is an equal opportunity employer.*

## USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service

delivers conservation through programs established by the Farm Bill. With passage of this new bill, there is an agency-wide effort to implement a new vision for delivering conservation in the future. We are implementing new strategies to:

- remove barriers to conservation programs
- simplify and streamline processes
- focus on agricultural customers
- encourage participation of non-traditional customers

The 2008 Farm Bill has the potential to become historic for the level of conservation applied to the land. This report includes a brief summary of conservation assistance provided in the 2008 fiscal year.

# GEORGIA NRCS

## Agricultural Water Enhancement Program

In 2009, NRCS entered into two partnership agreements—one with the Flint River Soil and Water Conservation District (FRSWCD) and one with the Georgia Soil and Water Conservation Commission (GSWCC).

Through the FRSWCD partnership, NRCS is working to improve irrigation efficiency. A total of 263 contracts valued at \$1.9 million was awarded to farmers for the purpose of improving irrigation efficiency on 24,000 acres. The NRCS partnership with the GSWCC will help a number of organic producers, and those making the transition to organic production, install conservation practices. Funding for this initiative is scheduled to begin in fiscal year 2010.

## Conservation Security Program

This program came to a close during fiscal year 2008. From 2004 to 2008, NRCS rewarded 261 participants \$22.8 million for their conservation work on 154,000 acres. Contracts will continue through 2010.

## Conservation Stewardship Program

During 2009, over 332 applications were submitted to enroll over 122,000 acres ( 58,000 acres in cropland and 62,000 in Non-Industrial Private Forest Land).

## Emergency Watershed Protection Program

In 2009, NRCS offered technical and financial assistance to 36 counties in response to flooding. In April 2009, major flooding occurred in South Georgia; in September, an epic flood occurred in the Atlanta metropolitan area. Estimates are that well over \$6 million in damages occurred as a result of these flood events.

## Agricultural Conservation Enrollees (ACES)

Georgia has nine ACES employees working throughout the state under this initiative.

## Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)

In 2009, 1,129 farmers benefited from \$14.8 million in EQIP funds.

These producers enrolled over 96,000 acres in the program. Livestock producers received over 60 percent of the EQIP dollars, with cattle operators utilizing \$8.9 million in financial assistance to improve Georgia's water quality.

Producers in South Georgia enrolled to retrofit 286 center pivot irrigation systems from high pressure to low pressure systems. Combined with an irrigation water management plan, this will result in a 20 percent water usage reduction.

## Farm and Ranch Lands Protection Program

Georgia closed on two new conservation easements in 2009 totaling \$4.2 million and protecting 300 acres.

## Grazing Lands Conservation Initiative

This year, the Georgia Grazing Lands Conservation Coalition (GGLCC) embarked on a new project and established model farms to be used for education purposes during field days and other workshops. In addition, the Coastal Plain Grazing System Demonstration Project entered its second year at the Jimmy Carter Plant Materials Center. A herd of 22-25 beef cows are being used to evaluate different grasses.

## Grasslands Reserve Program

In 2009, 46 acres in Oconee County were placed into a permanent easement for \$237,000. NRCS entered into 17 rental contracts for 2,500 acres in six counties.

## Healthy Forests Reserve Program

In 2009, this program was implemented in 26 counties in the Sand Hill area of Georgia. Of the 33 applications received, 6 were selected for funding and will restore 1,000 acres of longleaf pine-critical habitat for the endangered gopher tortoise.

## Plant Materials Center (PMC)

The PMC worked with 11 different studies and 8 field plantings in Alabama and Georgia. Among the projects are the evaluation of plants for pharmaceutical use, a Bobwhite quail restoration study, a release of a switchgrass for use along the South Carolina coast, and nature trail plant

identification.

## Resource Conservation & Development (RC&D)

During 2009, Georgia's 11 RC&D Councils created 35 businesses in the state of Georgia; completed 11 watershed plans, and implemented 265 projects totaling over \$14 million in assistance.

## Soil Survey

Georgia is on schedule to complete the initial inventory of all the soils in the state by 2011. In 2009, work was completed on five soil survey projects. 534,69 acres were mapped in 2009.

## Technical Service Providers (TSP)

Georgia obligated \$320,400 through TSP agreements and through the Agricultural Conservation Enrollees Program in 2009. Seventeen agreements were developed with counties, soil and water conservation districts, and with the National Wild Turkey Federation.

## Watershed Planning

In 2009, NRCS provided technical assistance to nine communities with technical watershed planning. Five watershed plans were processed for local communities.

## Watershed Rehabilitation

Since 2002, Georgia has secured \$11 million to upgrade six high hazard watershed dams. Additionally, 44 dams have been, or are being, analyzed to determine the extent of downstream hazards.

## Wetland Reserve Program (WRP)

In 2009, 11 new easements equaling 2,248 acres were enrolled into the Wetlands Reserve Program. An additional 375 acres were restored in existing WRP easements.

## Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program

Georgia received \$1.1 million in funds this year. With these funds, 123 contracts were approved in 59 counties impacting over 7,700 acres.

CONGRESSMAN  
HANK JOHNSON

# 2010 LEGISLATIVE REPORT



## 2009 GEORGIA FLOODS

After years of drought, 36 communities in Georgia suffered extreme flood events in 2009.

In April, major flooding hit south Georgia causing widespread damage to property and infrastructure. Early, Miller, Tift, and Worth counties—as well as the cities of Arlington, Nashville, and Valdosta—requested over \$1.8

million for recovery measures.

Much of this was associated with the cost to restore washed out highway stream crossings and other threats to life and property.

During September of 2009, an epic flood inundated the Atlanta Metropolitan Area.

Over \$500

million in damages occurred in 23 counties. To date, 29 communities have requested NRCS technical and financial assistance in response to this disaster.

The communities include: Cobb, Douglas, Fulton, and Gwinnett counties as well as the cities of Atlanta, Austell, Berkley Lake, Duluth, John's Creek Milton, Mountain Park, Roswell, Sandy Springs, Stone Mountain, Trion

and Warner Robbins.

Under the agency's Emergency Watershed Protection Program, NRCS can provide assistance to remove debris from rivers, streams and creeks to protect life and property.

They also requested help in stabilizing streambanks at bridges, culverts, other road crossings and utilities to prevent further damage of public infrastructure.



## QUICK FACTS FOR THE STATE OF GEORGIA

### CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 4

#### 4 Individuals receiving conservation assistance

\$37,137 **Total conservation cost-share funds**  
Environmental Quality Incentives program

\$10,406 **Total conservation technical assistance funds**  
\$1,900 **Total RC&D funds brought to the state**

*Twenty Three technical service providers are providing service to producers throughout the state.*

*USDA is an equal opportunity employer.*

## USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service

delivers conservation through programs established by the Farm Bill. With passage of this new bill, there is an agency-wide effort to implement a new vision for delivering conservation in the future. We are implementing new strategies to:

- remove barriers to conservation programs
- simplify and streamline processes
- focus on agricultural customers
- encourage participation of non-traditional customers

The 2008 Farm Bill has the potential to become historic for the level of conservation applied to the land. This report includes a brief summary of conservation assistance provided in the 2008 fiscal year.

# GEORGIA NRCS

## Agricultural Water Enhancement Program

In 2009, NRCS entered into two partnership agreements—one with the Flint River Soil and Water Conservation District (FRSWCD) and one with the Georgia Soil and Water Conservation Commission (GSWCC).

Through the FRSWCD partnership, NRCS is working to improve irrigation efficiency. A total of 263 contracts valued at \$1.9 million was awarded to farmers for the purpose of improving irrigation efficiency on 24,000 acres. The NRCS partnership with the GSWCC will help a number of organic producers, and those making the transition to organic production, install conservation practices. Funding for this initiative is scheduled to begin in fiscal year 2010.

## Conservation Security Program

This program came to a close during fiscal year 2008. From 2004 to 2008, NRCS rewarded 261 participants \$22.8 million for their conservation work on 154,000 acres. Contracts will continue through 2010.

## Conservation Stewardship Program

During 2009, over 332 applications were submitted to enroll over 122,000 acres ( 58,000 acres in cropland and 62,000 in Non-Industrial Private Forest Land).

## Emergency Watershed Protection Program

In 2009, NRCS offered technical and financial assistance to 36 counties in response to flooding. In April 2009, major flooding occurred in South Georgia; in September, an epic flood occurred in the Atlanta metropolitan area. Estimates are that well over \$6 million in damages occurred as a result of these flood events.

## Agricultural Conservation Enrollees (ACES)

Georgia has nine ACES employees working throughout the state under this initiative.

## Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)

In 2009, 1,129 farmers benefited from \$14.8 million in EQIP funds.

These producers enrolled over 96,000 acres in the program. Livestock producers received over 60 percent of the EQIP dollars, with cattle operators utilizing \$8.9 million in financial assistance to improve Georgia's water quality.

Producers in South Georgia enrolled to retrofit 286 center pivot irrigation systems from high pressure to low pressure systems. Combined with an irrigation water management plan, this will result in a 20 percent water usage reduction.

## Farm and Ranch Lands Protection Program

Georgia closed on two new conservation easements in 2009 totaling \$4.2 million and protecting 300 acres.

## Grazing Lands Conservation Initiative

This year, the Georgia Grazing Lands Conservation Coalition (GGLCC) embarked on a new project and established model farms to be used for education purposes during field days and other workshops. In addition, the Coastal Plain Grazing System Demonstration Project entered its second year at the Jimmy Carter Plant Materials Center. A herd of 22-25 beef cows are being used to evaluate different grasses.

## Grasslands Reserve Program

In 2009, 46 acres in Oconee County were placed into a permanent easement for \$237,000. NRCS entered into 17 rental contracts for 2,500 acres in six counties.

## Healthy Forests Reserve Program

In 2009, this program was implemented in 26 counties in the Sand Hill area of Georgia. Of the 33 applications received, 6 were selected for funding and will restore 1,000 acres of longleaf pine-critical habitat for the endangered gopher tortoise.

## Plant Materials Center (PMC)

The PMC worked with 11 different studies and 8 field plantings in Alabama and Georgia. Among the projects are the evaluation of plants for pharmaceutical use, a Bobwhite quail restoration study, a release of a switchgrass for use along the South Carolina coast, and nature trail plant

identification.

## Resource Conservation & Development (RC&D)

During 2009, Georgia's 11 RC&D Councils created 35 businesses in the state of Georgia; completed 11 watershed plans, and implemented 265 projects totaling over \$14 million in assistance.

## Soil Survey

Georgia is on schedule to complete the initial inventory of all the soils in the state by 2011. In 2009, work was completed on five soil survey projects. 534,69 acres were mapped in 2009.

## Technical Service Providers (TSP)

Georgia obligated \$320,400 through TSP agreements and through the Agricultural Conservation Enrollees Program in 2009. Seventeen agreements were developed with counties, soil and water conservation districts, and with the National Wild Turkey Federation.

## Watershed Planning

In 2009, NRCS provided technical assistance to nine communities with technical watershed planning. Five watershed plans were processed for local communities.

## Watershed Rehabilitation

Since 2002, Georgia has secured \$11 million to upgrade six high hazard watershed dams. Additionally, 44 dams have been, or are being, analyzed to determine the extent of downstream hazards.

## Wetland Reserve Program (WRP)

In 2009, 11 new easements equaling 2,248 acres were enrolled into the Wetlands Reserve Program. An additional 375 acres were restored in existing WRP easements.

## Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program

Georgia received \$1.1 million in funds this year. With these funds, 123 contracts were approved in 59 counties impacting over 7,700 acres.

CONGRESSMAN  
JOHN LEWIS

# 2010 LEGISLATIVE REPORT



## 2009 GEORGIA FLOODS

After years of drought, 36 communities in Georgia suffered extreme flood events in 2009.

In April, major flooding hit south Georgia causing widespread damage to property and infrastructure. Early, Miller, Tift, and Worth counties—as well as the cities of Arlington, Nashville, and Valdosta—requested over \$1.8

million for recovery measures.

Much of this was associated with the cost to restore washed out highway stream crossings and other threats to life and property.

During September of 2009, an epic flood inundated the Atlanta Metropolitan Area.

Over \$500

million in damages occurred in 23 counties. To date, 29 communities have requested NRCS technical and financial assistance in response to this disaster.

The communities include: Cobb, Douglas, Fulton, and Gwinnett counties as well as the cities of Atlanta, Austell, Berkley Lake, Duluth, John's Creek Milton, Mountain Park, Roswell, Sandy Springs, Stone Mountain, Trion

and Warner Robbins.

Under the agency's Emergency Watershed Protection Program, NRCS can provide assistance to remove debris from rivers, streams and creeks to protect life and property.

They also requested help in stabilizing streambanks at bridges, culverts, other road crossings and utilities to prevent further damage of public infrastructure.



## QUICK FACTS FOR THE STATE OF GEORGIA

**14 CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 5**  
**Individuals receiving conservation assistance**

**Total conservation cost-share funds**  
\$24,407 Environmental Quality Incentives program  
\$6,702 Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program

**\$23,116 Total conservation technical assistance funds**

*Twenty three technical service providers are providing service to producers throughout the state.*

*USDA is an equal opportunity employer.*

## USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service

delivers conservation through programs established by the Farm Bill. With passage of this new bill, there is an agency-wide effort to implement a new vision for delivering conservation in the future. We are implementing new strategies to:

- remove barriers to conservation programs
- simplify and streamline processes
- focus on agricultural customers
- encourage participation of non-traditional customers

The 2008 Farm Bill has the potential to become historic for the level of conservation applied to the land. This report includes a brief summary of conservation assistance provided in the 2008 fiscal year.

# GEORGIA NRCS

## Agricultural Water Enhancement Program

In 2009, NRCS entered into two partnership agreements—one with the Flint River Soil and Water Conservation District (FRSWCD) and one with the Georgia Soil and Water Conservation Commission (GSWCC).

Through the FRSWCD partnership, NRCS is working to improve irrigation efficiency. A total of 263 contracts valued at \$1.9 million was awarded to farmers for the purpose of improving irrigation efficiency on 24,000 acres. The NRCS partnership with the GSWCC will help a number of organic producers, and those making the transition to organic production, install conservation practices. Funding for this initiative is scheduled to begin in fiscal year 2010.

## Conservation Security Program

This program came to a close during fiscal year 2008. From 2004 to 2008, NRCS rewarded 261 participants \$22.8 million for their conservation work on 154,000 acres. Contracts will continue through 2010.

## Conservation Stewardship Program

During 2009, over 332 applications were submitted to enroll over 122,000 acres ( 58,000 acres in cropland and 62,000 in Non-Industrial Private Forest Land).

## Emergency Watershed Protection Program

In 2009, NRCS offered technical and financial assistance to 36 counties in response to flooding. In April 2009, major flooding occurred in South Georgia; in September, an epic flood occurred in the Atlanta metropolitan area. Estimates are that well over \$6 million in damages occurred as a result of these flood events.

## Agricultural Conservation Enrollees (ACES)

Georgia has nine ACES employees working throughout the state under this initiative.

## Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)

In 2009, 1,129 farmers benefited from \$14.8 million in EQIP funds.

These producers enrolled over 96,000 acres in the program. Livestock producers received over 60 percent of the EQIP dollars, with cattle operators utilizing \$8.9 million in financial assistance to improve Georgia's water quality.

Producers in South Georgia enrolled to retrofit 286 center pivot irrigation systems from high pressure to low pressure systems. Combined with an irrigation water management plan, this will result in a 20 percent water usage reduction.

## Farm and Ranch Lands Protection Program

Georgia closed on two new conservation easements in 2009 totaling \$4.2 million and protecting 300 acres.

## Grazing Lands Conservation Initiative

This year, the Georgia Grazing Lands Conservation Coalition (GGLCC) embarked on a new project and established model farms to be used for education purposes during field days and other workshops. In addition, the Coastal Plain Grazing System Demonstration Project entered its second year at the Jimmy Carter Plant Materials Center. A herd of 22-25 beef cows are being used to evaluate different grasses.

## Grasslands Reserve Program

In 2009, 46 acres in Oconee County were placed into a permanent easement for \$237,000. NRCS entered into 17 rental contracts for 2,500 acres in six counties.

## Healthy Forests Reserve Program

In 2009, this program was implemented in 26 counties in the Sand Hill area of Georgia. Of the 33 applications received, 6 were selected for funding and will restore 1,000 acres of longleaf pine-critical habitat for the endangered gopher tortoise.

## Plant Materials Center (PMC)

The PMC worked with 11 different studies and 8 field plantings in Alabama and Georgia. Among the projects are the evaluation of plants for pharmaceutical use, a Bobwhite quail restoration study, a release of a switchgrass for use along the South Carolina coast, and nature trail plant

identification.

## Resource Conservation & Development (RC&D)

During 2009, Georgia's 11 RC&D Councils created 35 businesses in the state of Georgia; completed 11 watershed plans, and implemented 265 projects totaling over \$14 million in assistance.

## Soil Survey

Georgia is on schedule to complete the initial inventory of all the soils in the state by 2011. In 2009, work was completed on five soil survey projects. 534,69 acres were mapped in 2009.

## Technical Service Providers (TSP)

Georgia obligated \$320,400 through TSP agreements and through the Agricultural Conservation Enrollees Program in 2009. Seventeen agreements were developed with counties, soil and water conservation districts, and with the National Wild Turkey Federation.

## Watershed Planning

In 2009, NRCS provided technical assistance to nine communities with technical watershed planning. Five watershed plans were processed for local communities.

## Watershed Rehabilitation

Since 2002, Georgia has secured \$11 million to upgrade six high hazard watershed dams. Additionally, 44 dams have been, or are being, analyzed to determine the extent of downstream hazards.

## Wetland Reserve Program (WRP)

In 2009, 11 new easements equaling 2,248 acres were enrolled into the Wetlands Reserve Program. An additional 375 acres were restored in existing WRP easements.

## Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program

Georgia received \$1.1 million in funds this year. With these funds, 123 contracts were approved in 59 counties impacting over 7,700 acres.

CONGRESSMAN  
TOM PRICE

# 2010 LEGISLATIVE REPORT



## 2009 GEORGIA FLOODS

After years of drought, 36 communities in Georgia suffered extreme flood events in 2009.

In April, major flooding hit south Georgia causing widespread damage to property and infrastructure. Early, Miller, Tift, and Worth counties—as well as the cities of Arlington, Nashville, and Valdosta—requested over \$1.8

million for recovery measures.

Much of this was associated with the cost to restore washed out highway stream crossings and other threats to life and property.

During September of 2009, an epic flood inundated the Atlanta Metropolitan Area.

Over \$500

million in damages occurred in 23 counties. To date, 29 communities have requested NRCS technical and financial assistance in response to this disaster.

The communities include: Cobb, Douglas, Fulton, and Gwinnett counties as well as the cities of Atlanta, Austell, Berkley Lake, Duluth, John's Creek Milton, Mountain Park, Roswell, Sandy Springs, Stone Mountain, Trion

and Warner Robbins.

Under the agency's Emergency Watershed Protection Program, NRCS can provide assistance to remove debris from rivers, streams and creeks to protect life and property.

They also requested help in stabilizing streambanks at bridges, culverts, other road crossings and utilities to prevent further damage of public infrastructure.



## QUICK FACTS FOR THE STATE OF GEORGIA

### CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 6

19 Individuals receiving conservation assistance

\$79,589 Total conservation cost-share funds  
Environmental Quality Incentives program

\$41,834 Total conservation technical assistance funds  
\$58,250 Total RC&D funds brought to the state

*Twenty three technical service providers are providing service to producers throughout the state.*

*USDA is an equal opportunity employer.*

## USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service

delivers conservation through programs established by the Farm Bill. With passage of this new bill, there is an agency-wide effort to implement a new vision for delivering conservation in the future. We are implementing new strategies to:

- remove barriers to conservation programs
- simplify and streamline processes
- focus on agricultural customers
- encourage participation of non-traditional customers

The 2008 Farm Bill has the potential to become historic for the level of conservation applied to the land. This report includes a brief summary of conservation assistance provided in the 2008 fiscal year.

# GEORGIA NRCS

## Agricultural Water Enhancement Program

In 2009, NRCS entered into two partnership agreements—one with the Flint River Soil and Water Conservation District (FRSWCD) and one with the Georgia Soil and Water Conservation Commission (GSWCC).

Through the FRSWCD partnership, NRCS is working to improve irrigation efficiency. A total of 263 contracts valued at \$1.9 million was awarded to farmers for the purpose of improving irrigation efficiency on 24,000 acres. The NRCS partnership with the GSWCC will help a number of organic producers, and those making the transition to organic production, install conservation practices. Funding for this initiative is scheduled to begin in fiscal year 2010.

## Conservation Security Program

This program came to a close during fiscal year 2008. From 2004 to 2008, NRCS rewarded 261 participants \$22.8 million for their conservation work on 154,000 acres. Contracts will continue through 2010.

## Conservation Stewardship Program

During 2009, over 332 applications were submitted to enroll over 122,000 acres ( 58,000 acres in cropland and 62,000 in Non-Industrial Private Forest Land).

## Emergency Watershed Protection Program

In 2009, NRCS offered technical and financial assistance to 36 counties in response to flooding. In April 2009, major flooding occurred in South Georgia; in September, an epic flood occurred in the Atlanta metropolitan area. Estimates are that well over \$6 million in damages occurred as a result of these flood events.

## Agricultural Conservation Enrollees (ACES)

Georgia has nine ACES employees working throughout the state under this initiative.

## Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)

In 2009, 1,129 farmers benefited from \$14.8 million in EQIP funds.

These producers enrolled over 96,000 acres in the program. Livestock producers received over 60 percent of the EQIP dollars, with cattle operators utilizing \$8.9 million in financial assistance to improve Georgia's water quality.

Producers in South Georgia enrolled to retrofit 286 center pivot irrigation systems from high pressure to low pressure systems. Combined with an irrigation water management plan, this will result in a 20 percent water usage reduction.

## Farm and Ranch Lands Protection Program

Georgia closed on two new conservation easements in 2009 totaling \$4.2 million and protecting 300 acres.

## Grazing Lands Conservation Initiative

This year, the Georgia Grazing Lands Conservation Coalition (GGLCC) embarked on a new project and established model farms to be used for education purposes during field days and other workshops. In addition, the Coastal Plain Grazing System Demonstration Project entered its second year at the Jimmy Carter Plant Materials Center. A herd of 22-25 beef cows are being used to evaluate different grasses.

## Grasslands Reserve Program

In 2009, 46 acres in Oconee County were placed into a permanent easement for \$237,000. NRCS entered into 17 rental contracts for 2,500 acres in six counties.

## Healthy Forests Reserve Program

In 2009, this program was implemented in 26 counties in the Sand Hill area of Georgia. Of the 33 applications received, 6 were selected for funding and will restore 1,000 acres of longleaf pine-critical habitat for the endangered gopher tortoise.

## Plant Materials Center (PMC)

The PMC worked with 11 different studies and 8 field plantings in Alabama and Georgia. Among the projects are the evaluation of plants for pharmaceutical use, a Bobwhite quail restoration study, a release of a switchgrass for use along the South Carolina coast, and nature trail plant

identification.

## Resource Conservation & Development (RC&D)

During 2009, Georgia's 11 RC&D Councils created 35 businesses in the state of Georgia; completed 11 watershed plans, and implemented 265 projects totaling over \$14 million in assistance.

## Soil Survey

Georgia is on schedule to complete the initial inventory of all the soils in the state by 2011. In 2009, work was completed on five soil survey projects. 534,69 acres were mapped in 2009.

## Technical Service Providers (TSP)

Georgia obligated \$320,400 through TSP agreements and through the Agricultural Conservation Enrollees Program in 2009. Seventeen agreements were developed with counties, soil and water conservation districts, and with the National Wild Turkey Federation.

## Watershed Planning

In 2009, NRCS provided technical assistance to nine communities with technical watershed planning. Five watershed plans were processed for local communities.

## Watershed Rehabilitation

Since 2002, Georgia has secured \$11 million to upgrade six high hazard watershed dams. Additionally, 44 dams have been, or are being, analyzed to determine the extent of downstream hazards.

## Wetland Reserve Program (WRP)

In 2009, 11 new easements equaling 2,248 acres were enrolled into the Wetlands Reserve Program. An additional 375 acres were restored in existing WRP easements.

## Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program

Georgia received \$1.1 million in funds this year. With these funds, 123 contracts were approved in 59 counties impacting over 7,700 acres.

CONGRESSMAN  
JOHN LINDER

# 2010 LEGISLATIVE REPORT



## 2009 GEORGIA FLOODS

After years of drought, 36 communities in Georgia suffered extreme flood events in 2009.

In April, major flooding hit south Georgia causing widespread damage to property and infrastructure. Early, Miller, Tift, and Worth counties—as well as the cities of Arlington, Nashville, and Valdosta—requested over \$1.8

million for recovery measures.

Much of this was associated with the cost to restore washed out highway stream crossings and other threats to life and property.

During September of 2009, an epic flood inundated the Atlanta Metropolitan Area.

Over \$500

million in damages occurred in 23 counties. To date, 29 communities have requested NRCS technical and financial assistance in response to this disaster.

The communities include: Cobb, Douglas, Fulton, and Gwinnett counties as well as the cities of Atlanta, Austell, Berkley Lake, Duluth, John's Creek Milton, Mountain Park, Roswell, Sandy Springs, Stone Mountain, Trion

and Warner Robbins.

Under the agency's Emergency Watershed Protection Program, NRCS can provide assistance to remove debris from rivers, streams and creeks to protect life and property.

They also requested help in stabilizing streambanks at bridges, culverts, other road crossings and utilities to prevent further damage of public infrastructure.



## QUICK FACTS FOR THE STATE OF GEORGIA

**43 CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 7**  
Individuals receiving conservation assistance

**\$348,533** Total conservation cost-share funds  
Environmental Quality Incentives program  
**\$26,469** Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program

**\$148,785** Total conservation technical assistance funds  
**\$152,030** Total RC&D funds brought to the state

*Twenty three technical service providers are providing service to producers throughout the state.*

*USDA is an equal opportunity employer.*

## USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service

delivers conservation through programs established by the Farm Bill. With passage of this new bill, there is an agency-wide effort to implement a new vision for delivering conservation in the future. We are implementing new strategies to:

- remove barriers to conservation programs
- simplify and streamline processes
- focus on agricultural customers
- encourage participation of non-traditional customers

The 2008 Farm Bill has the potential to become historic for the level of conservation applied to the land. This report includes a brief summary of conservation assistance provided in the 2008 fiscal year.

# GEORGIA NRCS

## Agricultural Water Enhancement Program

In 2009, NRCS entered into two partnership agreements—one with the Flint River Soil and Water Conservation District (FRSWCD) and one with the Georgia Soil and Water Conservation Commission (GSWCC).

Through the FRSWCD partnership, NRCS is working to improve irrigation efficiency. A total of 263 contracts valued at \$1.9 million was awarded to farmers for the purpose of improving irrigation efficiency on 24,000 acres. The NRCS partnership with the GSWCC will help a number of organic producers, and those making the transition to organic production, install conservation practices. Funding for this initiative is scheduled to begin in fiscal year 2010.

## Conservation Security Program

This program came to a close during fiscal year 2008. From 2004 to 2008, NRCS rewarded 261 participants \$22.8 million for their conservation work on 154,000 acres. Contracts will continue through 2010.

## Conservation Stewardship Program

During 2009, over 332 applications were submitted to enroll over 122,000 acres ( 58,000 acres in cropland and 62,000 in Non-Industrial Private Forest Land).

## Emergency Watershed Protection Program

In 2009, NRCS offered technical and financial assistance to 36 counties in response to flooding. In April 2009, major flooding occurred in South Georgia; in September, an epic flood occurred in the Atlanta metropolitan area. Estimates are that well over \$6 million in damages occurred as a result of these flood events.

## Agricultural Conservation Enrollees (ACES)

Georgia has nine ACES employees working throughout the state under this initiative.

## Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)

In 2009, 1,129 farmers benefited from \$14.8 million in EQIP funds.

These producers enrolled over 96,000 acres in the program. Livestock producers received over 60 percent of the EQIP dollars, with cattle operators utilizing \$8.9 million in financial assistance to improve Georgia's water quality.

Producers in South Georgia enrolled to retrofit 286 center pivot irrigation systems from high pressure to low pressure systems. Combined with an irrigation water management plan, this will result in a 20 percent water usage reduction.

## Farm and Ranch Lands Protection Program

Georgia closed on two new conservation easements in 2009 totaling \$4.2 million and protecting 300 acres.

## Grazing Lands Conservation Initiative

This year, the Georgia Grazing Lands Conservation Coalition (GGLCC) embarked on a new project and established model farms to be used for education purposes during field days and other workshops. In addition, the Coastal Plain Grazing System Demonstration Project entered its second year at the Jimmy Carter Plant Materials Center. A herd of 22-25 beef cows are being used to evaluate different grasses.

## Grasslands Reserve Program

In 2009, 46 acres in Oconee County were placed into a permanent easement for \$237,000. NRCS entered into 17 rental contracts for 2,500 acres in six counties.

## Healthy Forests Reserve Program

In 2009, this program was implemented in 26 counties in the Sand Hill area of Georgia. Of the 33 applications received, 6 were selected for funding and will restore 1,000 acres of longleaf pine-critical habitat for the endangered gopher tortoise.

## Plant Materials Center (PMC)

The PMC worked with 11 different studies and 8 field plantings in Alabama and Georgia. Among the projects are the evaluation of plants for pharmaceutical use, a Bobwhite quail restoration study, a release of a switchgrass for use along the South Carolina coast, and nature trail plant

identification.

## Resource Conservation & Development (RC&D)

During 2009, Georgia's 11 RC&D Councils created 35 businesses in the state of Georgia; completed 11 watershed plans, and implemented 265 projects totaling over \$14 million in assistance.

## Soil Survey

Georgia is on schedule to complete the initial inventory of all the soils in the state by 2011. In 2009, work was completed on five soil survey projects. 534,69 acres were mapped in 2009.

## Technical Service Providers (TSP)

Georgia obligated \$320,400 through TSP agreements and through the Agricultural Conservation Enrollees Program in 2009. Seventeen agreements were developed with counties, soil and water conservation districts, and with the National Wild Turkey Federation.

## Watershed Planning

In 2009, NRCS provided technical assistance to nine communities with technical watershed planning. Five watershed plans were processed for local communities.

## Watershed Rehabilitation

Since 2002, Georgia has secured \$11 million to upgrade six high hazard watershed dams. Additionally, 44 dams have been, or are being, analyzed to determine the extent of downstream hazards.

## Wetland Reserve Program (WRP)

In 2009, 11 new easements equaling 2,248 acres were enrolled into the Wetlands Reserve Program. An additional 375 acres were restored in existing WRP easements.

## Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program

Georgia received \$1.1 million in funds this year. With these funds, 123 contracts were approved in 59 counties impacting over 7,700 acres.

CONGRESSMAN  
JIM MARSHALL

# 2010 LEGISLATIVE REPORT



## CONSERVATION PROGRAMS HELP MAKE FARM PROFITABLE

Bradbury Farms, owned by Tom and Nell Bradbury is located in Cochran and has been named the winner of the Governor's Agricultural Environmental Stewardship award for District III.

"Tom's practice of strict no-till is unique to our area. This, along with planting cover crops, has shown

progress in establishing a healthier, more productive soil medium," said Danny Bennett, soil conservationist for the USDA-NRCS.

Several of the practices implemented on Bradbury's farm are part of the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), Wildlife Habitat Incentives

Program (WHIP), Conservation Technical Assistance, and the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP).

"My goal is not to run a plow through my land, not even subsoil, but use cover crops to improve the tilth. I am aware of the fact that what you do to one natural resource affects the other resources on the farm," said Bradbury.

Among the practices Bradbury incorporates are food plot establishment, prescribed burning, vegetation control, predator trapping and leaving crop unharvested in the field borders. Bradbury's forestry operation uses Best Management Practices, outlined by the GA Forestry Commission. Bradbury has most of the corners of his center-pivot irrigation systems planted in longleaf pines. These pines have been thinned and limbed for maximum wildlife habitat.

Paul English, Central GA Soil and Water Conservation District Supervisor, states, "Tom is 100 percent committed to protecting all of the natural resources and conserving the water supply on his farm. His passion for conservation is quite evident in his willingness to try innovative ideas and share the results with others."

## QUICK FACTS FOR THE STATE OF GEORGIA

**564 CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 8**  
Individuals receiving conservation assistance

<b>Total conservation cost-share funds</b>	
\$1,843,115	Environmental Quality Incentives program
\$127,032	Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program
\$745,603	Conservation Security Program

<b>\$1,203,070</b>	<b>Total conservation technical assistance funds</b>
<b>\$276,200</b>	<b>Total RC&amp;D funds brought to the state</b>

*Twenty three technical service providers are providing service to producers throughout the state.*

*USDA is an equal opportunity employer.*

## USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service

delivers conservation through programs established by the Farm Bill. With passage of this new bill, there is an agency-wide effort to implement a new vision for delivering conservation in the future. We are implementing new strategies to:

- remove barriers to conservation programs
- simplify and streamline processes
- focus on agricultural customers
- encourage participation of non-traditional customers

The 2008 Farm Bill has the potential to become historic for the level of conservation applied to the land. This report includes a brief summary of conservation assistance provided in the 2008 fiscal year.

# GEORGIA NRCS

## Agricultural Water Enhancement Program

In 2009, NRCS entered into two partnership agreements—one with the Flint River Soil and Water Conservation District (FRSWCD) and one with the Georgia Soil and Water Conservation Commission (GSWCC).

Through the FRSWCD partnership, NRCS is working to improve irrigation efficiency. A total of 263 contracts valued at \$1.9 million was awarded to farmers for the purpose of improving irrigation efficiency on 24,000 acres. The NRCS partnership with the GSWCC will help a number of organic producers, and those making the transition to organic production, install conservation practices. Funding for this initiative is scheduled to begin in fiscal year 2010.

## Conservation Security Program

This program came to a close during fiscal year 2008. From 2004 to 2008, NRCS rewarded 261 participants \$22.8 million for their conservation work on 154,000 acres. Contracts will continue through 2010.

## Conservation Stewardship Program

During 2009, over 332 applications were submitted to enroll over 122,000 acres ( 58,000 acres in cropland and 62,000 in Non-Industrial Private Forest Land).

## Emergency Watershed Protection Program

In 2009, NRCS offered technical and financial assistance to 36 counties in response to flooding. In April 2009, major flooding occurred in South Georgia; in September, an epic flood occurred in the Atlanta metropolitan area. Estimates are that well over \$6 million in damages occurred as a result of these flood events.

## Agricultural Conservation Enrollees (ACES)

Georgia has nine ACES employees working throughout the state under this initiative.

## Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)

In 2009, 1,129 farmers benefited from \$14.8 million in EQIP funds.

These producers enrolled over 96,000 acres in the program. Livestock producers received over 60 percent of the EQIP dollars, with cattle operators utilizing \$8.9 million in financial assistance to improve Georgia's water quality.

Producers in South Georgia enrolled to retrofit 286 center pivot irrigation systems from high pressure to low pressure systems. Combined with an irrigation water management plan, this will result in a 20 percent water usage reduction.

## Farm and Ranch Lands Protection Program

Georgia closed on two new conservation easements in 2009 totaling \$4.2 million and protecting 300 acres.

## Grazing Lands Conservation Initiative

This year, the Georgia Grazing Lands Conservation Coalition (GGLCC) embarked on a new project and established model farms to be used for education purposes during field days and other workshops. In addition, the Coastal Plain Grazing System Demonstration Project entered its second year at the Jimmy Carter Plant Materials Center. A herd of 22-25 beef cows are being used to evaluate different grasses.

## Grasslands Reserve Program

In 2009, 46 acres in Oconee County were placed into a permanent easement for \$237,000. NRCS entered into 17 rental contracts for 2,500 acres in six counties.

## Healthy Forests Reserve Program

In 2009, this program was implemented in 26 counties in the Sand Hill area of Georgia. Of the 33 applications received, 6 were selected for funding and will restore 1,000 acres of longleaf pine-critical habitat for the endangered gopher tortoise.

## Plant Materials Center (PMC)

The PMC worked with 11 different studies and 8 field plantings in Alabama and Georgia. Among the projects are the evaluation of plants for pharmaceutical use, a Bobwhite quail restoration study, a release of a switchgrass for use along the South Carolina coast, and nature trail plant

identification.

## Resource Conservation & Development (RC&D)

During 2009, Georgia's 11 RC&D Councils created 35 businesses in the state of Georgia; completed 11 watershed plans, and implemented 265 projects totaling over \$14 million in assistance.

## Soil Survey

Georgia is on schedule to complete the initial inventory of all the soils in the state by 2011. In 2009, work was completed on five soil survey projects. 534,69 acres were mapped in 2009.

## Technical Service Providers (TSP)

Georgia obligated \$320,400 through TSP agreements and through the Agricultural Conservation Enrollees Program in 2009. Seventeen agreements were developed with counties, soil and water conservation districts, and with the National Wild Turkey Federation.

## Watershed Planning

In 2009, NRCS provided technical assistance to nine communities with technical watershed planning. Five watershed plans were processed for local communities.

## Watershed Rehabilitation

Since 2002, Georgia has secured \$11 million to upgrade six high hazard watershed dams. Additionally, 44 dams have been, or are being, analyzed to determine the extent of downstream hazards.

## Wetland Reserve Program (WRP)

In 2009, 11 new easements equaling 2,248 acres were enrolled into the Wetlands Reserve Program. An additional 375 acres were restored in existing WRP easements.

## Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program

Georgia received \$1.1 million in funds this year. With these funds, 123 contracts were approved in 59 counties impacting over 7,700 acres.

CONGRESSMAN  
NATHAN DEAL

# 2010 LEGISLATIVE REPORT



## **EQIP HELPS ORGANIC FARMER INCREASE PRODUCTIVITY**

West of Cumming, off of Jekyll Road is Cane Creek Farm, an organic farm run by Chuck and Lynn Pugh.

"I heard about the NRCS from a sheep farmer. I went to buy our first sheep and he introduced me to the Environmental Quality Incentives Program

(EQIP)."

The Pugh's called Louise McPherson, a soil conservationist with the NRCS. "They wanted to figure out the best way to improve the grazing for the sheep, but didn't have watering facilities in place to make rotational graz-

ing work."

McPherson went on to say, "We helped them install watering facilities and heavy use areas. We helped with overseeding the pastures to improve forage quality and with fencing to facilitate rotational grazing."

Lynn loves organic farming so much that she takes time out at Georgia

Organics to teach. "We have classroom discussion in the morning and hands-on farming in the afternoon. We even have school tours where we show the children what organic farming is," said Pugh.

"Most organic farmers are direct marketers and sell directly to the customer, through a Farmers Market, CSA, online, or a farm stand. I'm using chemical-free, sustainable growing practices on about 3 acres," said Lynn.

This farm is a realization of Lynn's dream to live a more sustainable lifestyle in closer relationship to nature. "Using practices that keep the land viable is important, so my philosophy is to use practices that build soil and improve the environment," said Lynn.

## **QUICK FACTS FOR THE STATE OF GEORGIA**

**763 CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 9**  
**Individuals receiving conservation assistance**

**Total conservation cost-share funds**  
\$1,762,905 Environmental Quality Incentives program  
\$4,066 Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program

**\$1,290,969 Total conservation technical assistance funds**  
**\$506,532 Total RC&D funds brought to the state**

*Twenty three technical service providers are providing service to producers throughout the state.*

*USDA is an equal opportunity employer.*

## **USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service**

delivers conservation through programs established by the Farm Bill. With passage of this new bill, there is an agency-wide effort to implement a new vision for delivering conservation in the future. We are implementing new strategies to:

- remove barriers to conservation programs
- simplify and streamline processes
- focus on agricultural customers
- encourage participation of non-traditional customers

The 2008 Farm Bill has the potential to become historic for the level of conservation applied to the land. This report includes a brief summary of conservation assistance provided in the 2008 fiscal year.

# GEORGIA NRCS

## Agricultural Water Enhancement Program

In 2009, NRCS entered into two partnership agreements—one with the Flint River Soil and Water Conservation District (FRSWCD) and one with the Georgia Soil and Water Conservation Commission (GSWCC).

Through the FRSWCD partnership, NRCS is working to improve irrigation efficiency. A total of 263 contracts valued at \$1.9 million was awarded to farmers for the purpose of improving irrigation efficiency on 24,000 acres. The NRCS partnership with the GSWCC will help a number of organic producers, and those making the transition to organic production, install conservation practices. Funding for this initiative is scheduled to begin in fiscal year 2010.

## Conservation Security Program

This program came to a close during fiscal year 2008. From 2004 to 2008, NRCS rewarded 261 participants \$22.8 million for their conservation work on 154,000 acres. Contracts will continue through 2010.

## Conservation Stewardship Program

During 2009, over 332 applications were submitted to enroll over 122,000 acres ( 58,000 acres in cropland and 62,000 in Non-Industrial Private Forest Land).

## Emergency Watershed Protection Program

In 2009, NRCS offered technical and financial assistance to 36 counties in response to flooding. In April 2009, major flooding occurred in South Georgia; in September, an epic flood occurred in the Atlanta metropolitan area. Estimates are that well over \$6 million in damages occurred as a result of these flood events.

## Agricultural Conservation Enrollees (ACES)

Georgia has nine ACES employees working throughout the state under this initiative.

## Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)

In 2009, 1,129 farmers benefited from \$14.8 million in EQIP funds.

These producers enrolled over 96,000 acres in the program. Livestock producers received over 60 percent of the EQIP dollars, with cattle operators utilizing \$8.9 million in financial assistance to improve Georgia's water quality.

Producers in South Georgia enrolled to retrofit 286 center pivot irrigation systems from high pressure to low pressure systems. Combined with an irrigation water management plan, this will result in a 20 percent water usage reduction.

## Farm and Ranch Lands Protection Program

Georgia closed on two new conservation easements in 2009 totaling \$4.2 million and protecting 300 acres.

## Grazing Lands Conservation Initiative

This year, the Georgia Grazing Lands Conservation Coalition (GGLCC) embarked on a new project and established model farms to be used for education purposes during field days and other workshops. In addition, the Coastal Plain Grazing System Demonstration Project entered its second year at the Jimmy Carter Plant Materials Center. A herd of 22-25 beef cows are being used to evaluate different grasses.

## Grasslands Reserve Program

In 2009, 46 acres in Oconee County were placed into a permanent easement for \$237,000. NRCS entered into 17 rental contracts for 2,500 acres in six counties.

## Healthy Forests Reserve Program

In 2009, this program was implemented in 26 counties in the Sand Hill area of Georgia. Of the 33 applications received, 6 were selected for funding and will restore 1,000 acres of longleaf pine-critical habitat for the endangered gopher tortoise.

## Plant Materials Center (PMC)

The PMC worked with 11 different studies and 8 field plantings in Alabama and Georgia. Among the projects are the evaluation of plants for pharmaceutical use, a Bobwhite quail restoration study, a release of a switchgrass for use along the South Carolina coast, and nature trail plant

identification.

## Resource Conservation & Development (RC&D)

During 2009, Georgia's 11 RC&D Councils created 35 businesses in the state of Georgia; completed 11 watershed plans, and implemented 265 projects totaling over \$14 million in assistance.

## Soil Survey

Georgia is on schedule to complete the initial inventory of all the soils in the state by 2011. In 2009, work was completed on five soil survey projects. 534,69 acres were mapped in 2009.

## Technical Service Providers (TSP)

Georgia obligated \$320,400 through TSP agreements and through the Agricultural Conservation Enrollees Program in 2009. Seventeen agreements were developed with counties, soil and water conservation districts, and with the National Wild Turkey Federation.

## Watershed Planning

In 2009, NRCS provided technical assistance to nine communities with technical watershed planning. Five watershed plans were processed for local communities.

## Watershed Rehabilitation

Since 2002, Georgia has secured \$11 million to upgrade six high hazard watershed dams. Additionally, 44 dams have been, or are being, analyzed to determine the extent of downstream hazards.

## Wetland Reserve Program (WRP)

In 2009, 11 new easements equaling 2,248 acres were enrolled into the Wetlands Reserve Program. An additional 375 acres were restored in existing WRP easements.

## Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program

Georgia received \$1.1 million in funds this year. With these funds, 123 contracts were approved in 59 counties impacting over 7,700 acres.

CONGRESSMAN  
PAUL BROUN

# 2010 LEGISLATIVE REPORT



## EQIP HELPS OUT OF CONTROL FARM

Terry Chandler, owner and operator of Stillwater Farms outside of Danielsville in Madison County, purchased an “out of control” farm in 1977. Today he is the Governor’s Environmental

Stewardship Award for Agriculture winner for District II.

“There existed severe erosion and weed issues when Terry Chandler purchased the farm. The entire farm was unproductive and “out of control.” Parts of the farm were flooded, particularly the forested areas,

due to activity by beavers. Soil fertility was extremely low, which resulted in very poor forage productivity,” said Carol Boss, district conservationist for the USDA-NRCS.

“Using the Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP), Chandler began to actively manage the existing resources to improve forage health, productivity and vigor.

Alternative watering facilities were installed to distribute livestock watering areas over the acreage, thereby minimizing damage to the forages. The pastures have been overseeded with the desired forage species and a rotational grazing system implemented by subdividing the fields into smaller, 10-acre paddocks. All fertilizer nutrients are applied to the land at rates consistent with yearly soil and litter analyses,” said Boss.

“Building soil and restoring soil fertility, improved forage and cattle performance, improved water quality, and improved overall aesthetics of the farm - that’s our benefits from the treatments,” said Chandler.

Chandler was approved in 2008 to receive funding through the Conservation Security Program as a Tier 3 farming operation.

## QUICK FACTS FOR THE STATE OF GEORGIA

### 442 CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 10 Individuals receiving conservation assistance

\$2,337,168	Total conservation cost-share funds
\$69,474	Environmental Quality Incentives program
\$745,603	Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program
	Conservation Security Program

\$1,063,066	Total conservation technical assistance funds
\$1,829,085	Total RC&D funds brought to the state

*Twenty three technical service providers are providing service to producers throughout the state.*

*USDA is an equal opportunity employer.*

### USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service

delivers conservation through programs established by the Farm Bill. With passage of this new bill, there is an agency-wide effort to implement a new vision for delivering conservation in the future. We are implementing new strategies to:

- remove barriers to conservation programs
- simplify and streamline processes
- focus on agricultural customers
- encourage participation of non-traditional customers

The 2008 Farm Bill has the potential to become historic for the level of conservation applied to the land. This report includes a brief summary of conservation assistance provided in the 2008 fiscal year.

# GEORGIA NRCS

## Agricultural Water Enhancement Program

In 2009, NRCS entered into two partnership agreements—one with the Flint River Soil and Water Conservation District (FRSWCD) and one with the Georgia Soil and Water Conservation Commission (GSWCC).

Through the FRSWCD partnership, NRCS is working to improve irrigation efficiency. A total of 263 contracts valued at \$1.9 million was awarded to farmers for the purpose of improving irrigation efficiency on 24,000 acres. The NRCS partnership with the GSWCC will help a number of organic producers, and those making the transition to organic production, install conservation practices. Funding for this initiative is scheduled to begin in fiscal year 2010.

## Conservation Security Program

This program came to a close during fiscal year 2008. From 2004 to 2008, NRCS rewarded 261 participants \$22.8 million for their conservation work on 154,000 acres. Contracts will continue through 2010.

## Conservation Stewardship Program

During 2009, over 332 applications were submitted to enroll over 122,000 acres ( 58,000 acres in cropland and 62,000 in Non-Industrial Private Forest Land).

## Emergency Watershed Protection Program

In 2009, NRCS offered technical and financial assistance to 36 counties in response to flooding. In April 2009, major flooding occurred in South Georgia; in September, an epic flood occurred in the Atlanta metropolitan area. Estimates are that well over \$6 million in damages occurred as a result of these flood events.

## Agricultural Conservation Enrollees (ACES)

Georgia has nine ACES employees working throughout the state under this initiative.

## Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)

In 2009, 1,129 farmers benefited from \$14.8 million in EQIP funds.

These producers enrolled over 96,000 acres in the program. Livestock producers received over 60 percent of the EQIP dollars, with cattle operators utilizing \$8.9 million in financial assistance to improve Georgia's water quality.

Producers in South Georgia enrolled to retrofit 286 center pivot irrigation systems from high pressure to low pressure systems. Combined with an irrigation water management plan, this will result in a 20 percent water usage reduction.

## Farm and Ranch Lands Protection Program

Georgia closed on two new conservation easements in 2009 totaling \$4.2 million and protecting 300 acres.

## Grazing Lands Conservation Initiative

This year, the Georgia Grazing Lands Conservation Coalition (GGLCC) embarked on a new project and established model farms to be used for education purposes during field days and other workshops. In addition, the Coastal Plain Grazing System Demonstration Project entered its second year at the Jimmy Carter Plant Materials Center. A herd of 22-25 beef cows are being used to evaluate different grasses.

## Grasslands Reserve Program

In 2009, 46 acres in Oconee County were placed into a permanent easement for \$237,000. NRCS entered into 17 rental contracts for 2,500 acres in six counties.

## Healthy Forests Reserve Program

In 2009, this program was implemented in 26 counties in the Sand Hill area of Georgia. Of the 33 applications received, 6 were selected for funding and will restore 1,000 acres of longleaf pine-critical habitat for the endangered gopher tortoise.

## Plant Materials Center (PMC)

The PMC worked with 11 different studies and 8 field plantings in Alabama and Georgia. Among the projects are the evaluation of plants for pharmaceutical use, a Bobwhite quail restoration study, a release of a switchgrass for use along the South Carolina coast, and nature trail plant

identification.

## Resource Conservation & Development (RC&D)

During 2009, Georgia's 11 RC&D Councils created 35 businesses in the state of Georgia; completed 11 watershed plans, and implemented 265 projects totaling over \$14 million in assistance.

## Soil Survey

Georgia is on schedule to complete the initial inventory of all the soils in the state by 2011. In 2009, work was completed on five soil survey projects. 534,69 acres were mapped in 2009.

## Technical Service Providers (TSP)

Georgia obligated \$320,400 through TSP agreements and through the Agricultural Conservation Enrollees Program in 2009. Seventeen agreements were developed with counties, soil and water conservation districts, and with the National Wild Turkey Federation.

## Watershed Planning

In 2009, NRCS provided technical assistance to nine communities with technical watershed planning. Five watershed plans were processed for local communities.

## Watershed Rehabilitation

Since 2002, Georgia has secured \$11 million to upgrade six high hazard watershed dams. Additionally, 44 dams have been, or are being, analyzed to determine the extent of downstream hazards.

## Wetland Reserve Program (WRP)

In 2009, 11 new easements equaling 2,248 acres were enrolled into the Wetlands Reserve Program. An additional 375 acres were restored in existing WRP easements.

## Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program

Georgia received \$1.1 million in funds this year. With these funds, 123 contracts were approved in 59 counties impacting over 7,700 acres.

CONGRESSMAN  
PHIL GINGREY

# 2010 LEGISLATIVE REPORT



## 2009 GEORGIA FLOODS

After years of drought, 36 communities in Georgia suffered extreme flood events in 2009.

In April, major flooding hit south Georgia causing widespread damage to property and infrastructure. Early, Miller, Tift, and Worth counties—as well as the cities of Arlington, Nashville, and Valdosta—requested over \$1.8

million for recovery measures.

Much of this was associated with the cost to restore washed out highway stream crossings and other threats to life and property.

During September of 2009, an epic flood inundated the Atlanta Metropolitan Area.

Over \$500

million in damages occurred in 23 counties. To date, 29 communities have requested NRCS technical and financial assistance in response to this disaster.

The communities include: Cobb, Douglas, Fulton, and Gwinnett counties as well as the cities of Atlanta, Austell, Berkley Lake, Duluth, John's Creek Milton, Mountain Park, Roswell, Sandy Springs, Stone Mountain, Trion

and Warner Robbins.

Under the agency's Emergency Watershed Protection Program, NRCS can provide assistance to remove debris from rivers, streams and creeks to protect life and property.

They also requested help in stabilizing streambanks at bridges, culverts, other road crossings and utilities to prevent further damage of public infrastructure.



## QUICK FACTS FOR THE STATE OF GEORGIA

**CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 11**  
289 Individuals receiving conservation assistance

**Total conservation cost-share funds**  
\$1,198,957 Environmental Quality Incentives program  
\$77,935 Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program

**\$631,821 Total conservation technical assistance funds**  
**\$126,253 Total RC&D funds brought to the state**

*Twenty three technical service providers are providing service to producers throughout the state.*

*USDA is an equal opportunity employer.*

## USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service

delivers conservation through programs established by the Farm Bill. With passage of this new bill, there is an agency-wide effort to implement a new vision for delivering conservation in the future. We are implementing new strategies to:

- remove barriers to conservation programs
- simplify and streamline processes
- focus on agricultural customers
- encourage participation of non-traditional customers

The 2008 Farm Bill has the potential to become historic for the level of conservation applied to the land. This report includes a brief summary of conservation assistance provided in the 2008 fiscal year.

# GEORGIA NRCS

## Agricultural Water Enhancement Program

In 2009, NRCS entered into two partnership agreements—one with the Flint River Soil and Water Conservation District (FRSWCD) and one with the Georgia Soil and Water Conservation Commission (GSWCC).

Through the FRSWCD partnership, NRCS is working to improve irrigation efficiency. A total of 263 contracts valued at \$1.9 million was awarded to farmers for the purpose of improving irrigation efficiency on 24,000 acres. The NRCS partnership with the GSWCC will help a number of organic producers, and those making the transition to organic production, install conservation practices. Funding for this initiative is scheduled to begin in fiscal year 2010.

## Conservation Security Program

This program came to a close during fiscal year 2008. From 2004 to 2008, NRCS rewarded 261 participants \$22.8 million for their conservation work on 154,000 acres. Contracts will continue through 2010.

## Conservation Stewardship Program

During 2009, over 332 applications were submitted to enroll over 122,000 acres ( 58,000 acres in cropland and 62,000 in Non-Industrial Private Forest Land).

## Emergency Watershed Protection Program

In 2009, NRCS offered technical and financial assistance to 36 counties in response to flooding. In April 2009, major flooding occurred in South Georgia; in September, an epic flood occurred in the Atlanta metropolitan area. Estimates are that well over \$6 million in damages occurred as a result of these flood events.

## Agricultural Conservation Enrollees (ACES)

Georgia has nine ACES employees working throughout the state under this initiative.

## Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)

In 2009, 1,129 farmers benefited from \$14.8 million in EQIP funds.

These producers enrolled over 96,000 acres in the program. Livestock producers received over 60 percent of the EQIP dollars, with cattle operators utilizing \$8.9 million in financial assistance to improve Georgia's water quality.

Producers in South Georgia enrolled to retrofit 286 center pivot irrigation systems from high pressure to low pressure systems. Combined with an irrigation water management plan, this will result in a 20 percent water usage reduction.

## Farm and Ranch Lands Protection Program

Georgia closed on two new conservation easements in 2009 totaling \$4.2 million and protecting 300 acres.

## Grazing Lands Conservation Initiative

This year, the Georgia Grazing Lands Conservation Coalition (GGLCC) embarked on a new project and established model farms to be used for education purposes during field days and other workshops. In addition, the Coastal Plain Grazing System Demonstration Project entered its second year at the Jimmy Carter Plant Materials Center. A herd of 22-25 beef cows are being used to evaluate different grasses.

## Grasslands Reserve Program

In 2009, 46 acres in Oconee County were placed into a permanent easement for \$237,000. NRCS entered into 17 rental contracts for 2,500 acres in six counties.

## Healthy Forests Reserve Program

In 2009, this program was implemented in 26 counties in the Sand Hill area of Georgia. Of the 33 applications received, 6 were selected for funding and will restore 1,000 acres of longleaf pine-critical habitat for the endangered gopher tortoise.

## Plant Materials Center (PMC)

The PMC worked with 11 different studies and 8 field plantings in Alabama and Georgia. Among the projects are the evaluation of plants for pharmaceutical use, a Bobwhite quail restoration study, a release of a switchgrass for use along the South Carolina coast, and nature trail plant

identification.

## Resource Conservation & Development (RC&D)

During 2009, Georgia's 11 RC&D Councils created 35 businesses in the state of Georgia; completed 11 watershed plans, and implemented 265 projects totaling over \$14 million in assistance.

## Soil Survey

Georgia is on schedule to complete the initial inventory of all the soils in the state by 2011. In 2009, work was completed on five soil survey projects. 534,69 acres were mapped in 2009.

## Technical Service Providers (TSP)

Georgia obligated \$320,400 through TSP agreements and through the Agricultural Conservation Enrollees Program in 2009. Seventeen agreements were developed with counties, soil and water conservation districts, and with the National Wild Turkey Federation.

## Watershed Planning

In 2009, NRCS provided technical assistance to nine communities with technical watershed planning. Five watershed plans were processed for local communities.

## Watershed Rehabilitation

Since 2002, Georgia has secured \$11 million to upgrade six high hazard watershed dams. Additionally, 44 dams have been, or are being, analyzed to determine the extent of downstream hazards.

## Wetland Reserve Program (WRP)

In 2009, 11 new easements equaling 2,248 acres were enrolled into the Wetlands Reserve Program. An additional 375 acres were restored in existing WRP easements.

## Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program

Georgia received \$1.1 million in funds this year. With these funds, 123 contracts were approved in 59 counties impacting over 7,700 acres.

# CONGRESSMAN JOHN BARROW 2010 LEGISLATIVE REPORT



## SMALL FARMER INITIATIVE AND EQIP HELP FARMER KEEP GOING

Thomas Davis farms 30 acres of cropland in Uvalda, Montgomery County. Davis, a third generation farmer, was raised on a farm and enjoys it. "I was raised on a farm, my father farmed as did my grandfather

who bought the farm in 1918. I enjoy farming. I'm trying to keep it going. I'm the only one of my siblings that farms. I rent 20 acres from my brother and sister," said Davis.

The one and only natural resource concern that Davis had was lack of water. He did not have

any water available on the farm for irrigation.

Davis learned about the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) by talking with an employee of the Farm Service Agency. Davis sought the assistance of the NRCS.

Scotty Thomas, soil conservationist with the NRCS in Mt. Vernon, described the resource concern as

a water quantity concern of a Small-Limited Resource Farmer. "Mr. Davis applied and was approved for funding through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program's (EQIP) Small Farmer Initiative to install a well and irrigation system to enhance his small pick-your-own and truck crop vegetable operation," said Thomas.

Davis likes the program and the NRCS. "EQIP is an outstanding program. Without it I would not be able to have the well or the irrigation system that has been installed," said Davis. "The program and the NRCS is easy to work with. I'm very happy with the program."

## QUICK FACTS FOR THE STATE OF GEORGIA

**457 CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 12**  
Individuals receiving conservation assistance

**Total conservation cost-share funds**  
\$2,426,319 Environmental Quality Incentives program  
\$333,497 Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program

**\$4,053,822 Total conservation technical assistance funds**  
**\$320,000 Total RC&D funds brought to the state**

*Twenty three technical service providers are providing service to producers throughout the state.*

*USDA is an equal opportunity employer.*

## USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service

delivers conservation through programs established by the Farm Bill. With passage of this new bill, there is an agency-wide effort to implement a new vision for delivering conservation in the future. We are implementing new strategies to:

- remove barriers to conservation programs
- simplify and streamline processes
- focus on agricultural customers
- encourage participation of non-traditional customers

The 2008 Farm Bill has the potential to become historic for the level of conservation applied to the land. This report includes a brief summary of conservation assistance provided in the 2008 fiscal year.

# GEORGIA NRCS

## Agricultural Water Enhancement Program

In 2009, NRCS entered into two partnership agreements—one with the Flint River Soil and Water Conservation District (FRSWCD) and one with the Georgia Soil and Water Conservation Commission (GSWCC).

Through the FRSWCD partnership, NRCS is working to improve irrigation efficiency. A total of 263 contracts valued at \$1.9 million was awarded to farmers for the purpose of improving irrigation efficiency on 24,000 acres. The NRCS partnership with the GSWCC will help a number of organic producers, and those making the transition to organic production, install conservation practices. Funding for this initiative is scheduled to begin in fiscal year 2010.

## Conservation Security Program

This program came to a close during fiscal year 2008. From 2004 to 2008, NRCS rewarded 261 participants \$22.8 million for their conservation work on 154,000 acres. Contracts will continue through 2010.

## Conservation Stewardship Program

During 2009, over 332 applications were submitted to enroll over 122,000 acres ( 58,000 acres in cropland and 62,000 in Non-Industrial Private Forest Land).

## Emergency Watershed Protection Program

In 2009, NRCS offered technical and financial assistance to 36 counties in response to flooding. In April 2009, major flooding occurred in South Georgia; in September, an epic flood occurred in the Atlanta metropolitan area. Estimates are that well over \$6 million in damages occurred as a result of these flood events.

## Agricultural Conservation Enrollees (ACES)

Georgia has nine ACES employees working throughout the state under this initiative.

## Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)

In 2009, 1,129 farmers benefited from \$14.8 million in EQIP funds.

These producers enrolled over 96,000 acres in the program. Livestock producers received over 60 percent of the EQIP dollars, with cattle operators utilizing \$8.9 million in financial assistance to improve Georgia's water quality.

Producers in South Georgia enrolled to retrofit 286 center pivot irrigation systems from high pressure to low pressure systems. Combined with an irrigation water management plan, this will result in a 20 percent water usage reduction.

## Farm and Ranch Lands Protection Program

Georgia closed on two new conservation easements in 2009 totaling \$4.2 million and protecting 300 acres.

## Grazing Lands Conservation Initiative

This year, the Georgia Grazing Lands Conservation Coalition (GGLCC) embarked on a new project and established model farms to be used for education purposes during field days and other workshops. In addition, the Coastal Plain Grazing System Demonstration Project entered its second year at the Jimmy Carter Plant Materials Center. A herd of 22-25 beef cows are being used to evaluate different grasses.

## Grasslands Reserve Program

In 2009, 46 acres in Oconee County were placed into a permanent easement for \$237,000. NRCS entered into 17 rental contracts for 2,500 acres in six counties.

## Healthy Forests Reserve Program

In 2009, this program was implemented in 26 counties in the Sand Hill area of Georgia. Of the 33 applications received, 6 were selected for funding and will restore 1,000 acres of longleaf pine-critical habitat for the endangered gopher tortoise.

## Plant Materials Center (PMC)

The PMC worked with 11 different studies and 8 field plantings in Alabama and Georgia. Among the projects are the evaluation of plants for pharmaceutical use, a Bobwhite quail restoration study, a release of a switchgrass for use along the South Carolina coast, and nature trail plant

identification.

## Resource Conservation & Development (RC&D)

During 2009, Georgia's 11 RC&D Councils created 35 businesses in the state of Georgia; completed 11 watershed plans, and implemented 265 projects totaling over \$14 million in assistance.

## Soil Survey

Georgia is on schedule to complete the initial inventory of all the soils in the state by 2011. In 2009, work was completed on five soil survey projects. 534,69 acres were mapped in 2009.

## Technical Service Providers (TSP)

Georgia obligated \$320,400 through TSP agreements and through the Agricultural Conservation Enrollees Program in 2009. Seventeen agreements were developed with counties, soil and water conservation districts, and with the National Wild Turkey Federation.

## Watershed Planning

In 2009, NRCS provided technical assistance to nine communities with technical watershed planning. Five watershed plans were processed for local communities.

## Watershed Rehabilitation

Since 2002, Georgia has secured \$11 million to upgrade six high hazard watershed dams. Additionally, 44 dams have been, or are being, analyzed to determine the extent of downstream hazards.

## Wetland Reserve Program (WRP)

In 2009, 11 new easements equaling 2,248 acres were enrolled into the Wetlands Reserve Program. An additional 375 acres were restored in existing WRP easements.

## Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program

Georgia received \$1.1 million in funds this year. With these funds, 123 contracts were approved in 59 counties impacting over 7,700 acres.

CONGRESSMAN  
DAVID SCOTT

# 2010 LEGISLATIVE REPORT



## 2009 GEORGIA FLOODS

After years of drought, 36 communities in Georgia suffered extreme flood events in 2009.

In April, major flooding hit south Georgia causing widespread damage to property and infrastructure. Early, Miller, Tift, and Worth counties—as well as the cities of Arlington, Nashville, and Valdosta—requested over \$1.8

million for recovery measures.

Much of this was associated with the cost to restore washed out highway stream crossings and other threats to life and property.

During September of 2009, an epic flood inundated the Atlanta Metropolitan Area.

Over \$500

million in damages occurred in 23 counties. To date, 29 communities have requested NRCS technical and financial assistance in response to this disaster.

The communities include: Cobb, Douglas, Fulton, and Gwinnett counties as well as the cities of Atlanta, Austell, Berkley Lake, Duluth, John's Creek Milton, Mountain Park, Roswell, Sandy Springs, Stone Mountain, Trion

and Warner Robbins.

Under the agency's Emergency Watershed Protection Program, NRCS can provide assistance to remove debris from rivers, streams and creeks to protect life and property.

They also requested help in stabilizing streambanks at bridges, culverts, other road crossings and utilities to prevent further damage of public infrastructure.



## QUICK FACTS FOR THE STATE OF GEORGIA

### CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 13

22 Individuals receiving conservation assistance

#### Total conservation cost-share funds

\$49,465 Environmental Quality Incentives program  
\$6,702 Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program

\$170,906 Total conservation technical assistance funds

\$10,920 Total RC&D funds brought to the state

*Twenty three technical service providers are providing service to producers throughout the state.*

*USDA is an equal opportunity employer.*

## USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service

delivers conservation through programs established by the Farm Bill. With passage of this new bill, there is an agency-wide effort to implement a new vision for delivering conservation in the future. We are implementing new strategies to:

- remove barriers to conservation programs
- simplify and streamline processes
- focus on agricultural customers
- encourage participation of non-traditional customers

The 2008 Farm Bill has the potential to become historic for the level of conservation applied to the land. This report includes a brief summary of conservation assistance provided in the 2008 fiscal year.

# GEORGIA NRCS

## Agricultural Water Enhancement Program

In 2009, NRCS entered into two partnership agreements—one with the Flint River Soil and Water Conservation District (FRSWCD) and one with the Georgia Soil and Water Conservation Commission (GSWCC).

Through the FRSWCD partnership, NRCS is working to improve irrigation efficiency. A total of 263 contracts valued at \$1.9 million was awarded to farmers for the purpose of improving irrigation efficiency on 24,000 acres. The NRCS partnership with the GSWCC will help a number of organic producers, and those making the transition to organic production, install conservation practices. Funding for this initiative is scheduled to begin in fiscal year 2010.

## Conservation Security Program

This program came to a close during fiscal year 2008. From 2004 to 2008, NRCS rewarded 261 participants \$22.8 million for their conservation work on 154,000 acres. Contracts will continue through 2010.

## Conservation Stewardship Program

During 2009, over 332 applications were submitted to enroll over 122,000 acres ( 58,000 acres in cropland and 62,000 in Non-Industrial Private Forest Land).

## Emergency Watershed Protection Program

In 2009, NRCS offered technical and financial assistance to 36 counties in response to flooding. In April 2009, major flooding occurred in South Georgia; in September, an epic flood occurred in the Atlanta metropolitan area. Estimates are that well over \$6 million in damages occurred as a result of these flood events.

## Agricultural Conservation Enrollees (ACES)

Georgia has nine ACES employees working throughout the state under this initiative.

## Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)

In 2009, 1,129 farmers benefited from \$14.8 million in EQIP funds.

These producers enrolled over 96,000 acres in the program. Livestock producers received over 60 percent of the EQIP dollars, with cattle operators utilizing \$8.9 million in financial assistance to improve Georgia's water quality.

Producers in South Georgia enrolled to retrofit 286 center pivot irrigation systems from high pressure to low pressure systems. Combined with an irrigation water management plan, this will result in a 20 percent water usage reduction.

## Farm and Ranch Lands Protection Program

Georgia closed on two new conservation easements in 2009 totaling \$4.2 million and protecting 300 acres.

## Grazing Lands Conservation Initiative

This year, the Georgia Grazing Lands Conservation Coalition (GGLCC) embarked on a new project and established model farms to be used for education purposes during field days and other workshops. In addition, the Coastal Plain Grazing System Demonstration Project entered its second year at the Jimmy Carter Plant Materials Center. A herd of 22-25 beef cows are being used to evaluate different grasses.

## Grasslands Reserve Program

In 2009, 46 acres in Oconee County were placed into a permanent easement for \$237,000. NRCS entered into 17 rental contracts for 2,500 acres in six counties.

## Healthy Forests Reserve Program

In 2009, this program was implemented in 26 counties in the Sand Hill area of Georgia. Of the 33 applications received, 6 were selected for funding and will restore 1,000 acres of longleaf pine-critical habitat for the endangered gopher tortoise.

## Plant Materials Center (PMC)

The PMC worked with 11 different studies and 8 field plantings in Alabama and Georgia. Among the projects are the evaluation of plants for pharmaceutical use, a Bobwhite quail restoration study, a release of a switchgrass for use along the South Carolina coast, and nature trail plant

identification.

## Resource Conservation & Development (RC&D)

During 2009, Georgia's 11 RC&D Councils created 35 businesses in the state of Georgia; completed 11 watershed plans, and implemented 265 projects totaling over \$14 million in assistance.

## Soil Survey

Georgia is on schedule to complete the initial inventory of all the soils in the state by 2011. In 2009, work was completed on five soil survey projects. 534,69 acres were mapped in 2009.

## Technical Service Providers (TSP)

Georgia obligated \$320,400 through TSP agreements and through the Agricultural Conservation Enrollees Program in 2009. Seventeen agreements were developed with counties, soil and water conservation districts, and with the National Wild Turkey Federation.

## Watershed Planning

In 2009, NRCS provided technical assistance to nine communities with technical watershed planning. Five watershed plans were processed for local communities.

## Watershed Rehabilitation

Since 2002, Georgia has secured \$11 million to upgrade six high hazard watershed dams. Additionally, 44 dams have been, or are being, analyzed to determine the extent of downstream hazards.

## Wetland Reserve Program (WRP)

In 2009, 11 new easements equaling 2,248 acres were enrolled into the Wetlands Reserve Program. An additional 375 acres were restored in existing WRP easements.

## Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program

Georgia received \$1.1 million in funds this year. With these funds, 123 contracts were approved in 59 counties impacting over 7,700 acres.