



November 2012

Fall Issue

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Dear Conservationists,

What a year this has been! First of all as your new area conservationist, this year has been full of many challenges and opportunities—more than I expected! But thanks to all your help and support, it’s been an outstanding year, and I’ve been blessed to be a part of it! I am especially enjoying trips to the field to see all of you (hopefully more next year) and participating more in your activities as time permits. Please give me a call to let me know of any special events in your county so I can plan to get out to more of these in the future.



*David Brunson
Area Conservationist*

Some of our most impressive accomplishments for this year include some excellent progress summary numbers from the field: conservation plans written for 96,110 acres; 25,336 acres of improved soil quality on cropland ; resource base protected and improved on 42,476 acres of grazing land; 30,755 acres of improved quality of fish and wildlife habitat; and 44,923 acres of protected and improved vegetative conditions on forestland. These numbers are evidence of seriously dedicated employees in Area 2. Congratulations to all of you for a job well done!

On another note, I want to take this opportunity to again thank Michael Carr for his invaluable and outstanding contributions to Area 2. We will sorely miss you, Michael, and wish you all the best in your new job!

I look forward to another exciting year, and wish all of you a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

David Brunson
Area Conservationist



Photo courtesy of Greg Craddock

“Helping People Help the Land”

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A Success Story of Diversified Farming in Jasper County, Mississippi— Dale and Lynn Holifield Enterprises

*Story by Judi Craddock
Photos by Jason Keenan and Corey Ware*

Secluded way down in south Jasper County off a winding, scenic country road near Moss, Mississippi, lies 450 acres of the highly diversified, multi-farming operation of Dale and Lynn Holifield. More farming and business enterprises than you can count are going on at the same time, and all are perfectly organized and aimed at production, profit and growth. An extra side benefit is that the farm is basically self-sustaining—that is, if the world collapsed around them, the Holifields would be well prepared for almost anything!

Standing in front of ceiling high, freshly stacked squares of Alicia bermudagrass hay, NRCS Soil Conservationist Corey Ware (from left); Jasper County landowners Lynn and Dale Holifield; Mrs. Dave-Ann Wheat and Soil Conservation Technician Doyle Wheat, enjoy time together as personal friends as well as professional associates on the “711 Enterprises, LLC” Holifield farm operation near Moss, MS.

After a friendly welcome to the farm from the gracious couple, a tour of the Holifield farm began with a large multi-purpose building used for raising quail, processing their own meat (mostly deer and hog), and canning vegetables. Also there are large vats for honey extraction and processing—producing it by the barrel and selling it nationally (see page 5). Mr. Holifield also makes his own bee boxes to ship bees to Michigan, one of his many other enterprises!



Above is the secluded area where Mr. Holifield raises thousands of quail. A few times each year he conducts quail hunts. Although he has tried releasing them into the wild, there are still too many natural predators that prevent their success in thriving on their own.

A huge garden on the property grows plenty of fresh fruits and vegetables including blueberries, muscadines, blackberries, okra, tomatoes, onions, butterbeans, sweet potatoes, an assortment of sweet and bell peppers, and two varieties of snap beans.



Upper right: A well shown with blackberries for irrigation of the garden (see garden at left); and rows of muscadines (shown at right).





One of two shallow water impoundments (Duck Pond) laid out by NRCS Bay Springs staff.

family for several years. In 2005, Mr. Holifield went to see the local NRCS to seek quail habitat information. While there he read about the Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP), and “one thing led to another,” he stated. He signed up for Duck Pond (shallow water impoundment), Practice Code 644, to provide a watering facility to enhance wildlife habitat on his land.

Later on in March 2008, they signed up for NRCS’ Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) to install a watering facility (Well), Practice Code 614, for irrigation on their expanding garden. Irrigation has provided much needed water, resulting in a higher production of fruits and vegetables on the farm.

The Holifields have carried out other conservation practices including:

- WHIP—10,470 linear feet of Firebreaks in 2009 and 44 acres of Prescribed Burning (Practice Code 338) in March 2012;
- EQIP—Upland Wildlife Habitat Management Spraying Kudzu (Practice Code 645) in May 2010; and
- CTA—Upland Wildlife Habitat Management (Wildlife Plots).

Using a huge acreage of their woodlands for conservation and timber production, Mr. Holifield plans to expand this area for duck, quail and turkey habitat in the near future. He has already seen lots of wood ducks and mallards as well as gray and blue herons. He also plans to thin and manage the pine trees better, and possibly control burn every three years.



Above: One of the self-made deer shooting houses on the Holifield property.

The wooded areas, once hot spots for native Americans, are now havens for wildlife—mostly ducks, turkeys, and deer. Through the years, a large collection of arrowheads, several little beaver lakes and a watering hole have been found on the property as evidence of earlier Indian settlers. There are oxbow lakes good for bird hunting, and an artesian pond on the wetland area of the land that has strange, bluish-green water.

Mr. Holifield, who retired after 25 years of teaching math and computer science at West Jones High School in Laurel, MS, spent most of his life growing up in Jones County. Up until he was 15, his family owned a farm and franchise for growing trees for telephone poles sold to Bellsouth. Here he learned to love and appreciate farming, fishing and wildlife. But at 15, his parents sold the farm and moved to the city, an event that severely crushed him; but it made him promise to himself that one day he would own land and farm again. And that is just what he has done, and more! Today he has quite a spread of his own and continues to buy land at any opportunity. “I enjoy having a haven for wildlife, and a little productivity going on at the same time,” he stated. “I love letting nature take its course here.”

The Bay Springs NRCS Field Office staff, which includes Soil Conservationist Corey Ware and Soil Conservation Technician Doyle Wheat, has worked with the Holifield



The installation of fire breaks throughout the timberland.



Bottom right: The Holifields’ quail hunting dogs—half Brittany spaniels and English setters.



The Holifields have done several things on their own including planting several wildlife plots throughout the property; planting sawtooth oak trees mostly just to enjoy watching them grow as well as occasional recreational hunting; and adding two pristine fishponds full of white perch that meander through the property for fishing and recreation, as well as watering for wildlife.

Approximately 50 acres of green pastures on the property are used specifically for another farm enterprise—hay production. The Holifields produce and sell 5,000 to 6,000 bales of high quality Alicia Bermudagrass hay in round and square bales at local and out-of-state feed stores, as well as selling 1,500 bales just to individuals. Their hay has become a favorite at the feed stores, especially for horses due to its exceptional quality. Bushhogging and stripping occurs three times a year.

Above: The Holifields have planted Sawtooth oak trees (shown in far back), along with wooly croton (goat or dove weed) in front as food plots for deer and small game, as well as bicolor lespedeza and two rows of pomegranate. They want to plant 1,000 more sawtooth oak. Just beyond the tree line, we came upon a mother feral hog and her babies lying in the food plots. They scattered into the brush when we arrived. Lately the hogs have been tearing up his hay fields.



Mr. Holifield does his own meat processing (canned deer or hog meat above), and he and Lynn both do canning of vegetables (see pantry behind Mr. Holifield and filled to the brim freezer below). They are both excellent cooks and like to cook for special occasions for their church, family, and friends. These farmers will not go hungry during hard times! As the song goes... "country folks will survive!"



Above: Hay tedder— After cutting hay, moving forks "fluff up" the hay to allow it to dry or "cure" better, thus speeding-up hay production for sale as well as improving the aroma and color quality of the hay.

Below: Hay bale collector used to sort eight hay bundles and drop in one spot, where later Mr. Holifield or his helper will come along on the tractor to pick it up. They never have to manually pick up the bales of hay.





Numerous rows of bee hives are just outside the barn area for raising bees for sale to other beekeepers and for honey production. Mr. Holifield has been featured in the *American Bee Journal* and cooperatively produces honey along with five other beekeepers.



Pictures below include bee boxes and honey production processing on the farm.



Far left: Italian Cordovan bees—gentle and great honeycomb builders. **Left:** Beeswax is also produced from the white “cappings” sliced off the frames with a hot knife, then melted and poured into molds.

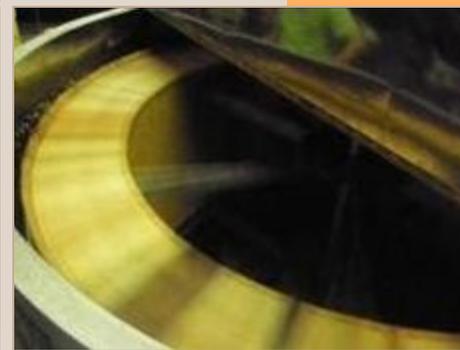
Mr. Holifield especially likes experimenting with planting or transplanting of new tree species and trying new things that can be useful on their farm. One species in particular, *Vitex*, shown below, is a flowering plant or tree that he is using to aid in honey production by attracting the bees to the plentiful



blooms on the plant. Mr. Holifield also strips the vitex, which blooms from spring to frost, and throws out the seed for turkey and quail food. Nothing is ever wasted on this farm!



Above: Wooden frames containing surplus honey from the bee houses are removed for processing honey and beeswax.



Far left: Honey extractor that has 60 frames; **Left:** the extractor will spin at a rapid speed and sling the honey out of the frames. The honey flows to the bottom where a pump delivers it to a storage tank.

Below: Mr. Holifield built his own sawmill to make whatever is needed on the farm, as well as preparing to build a new house.

And if that is not enough diversity for a farm, Mr. Holifield has his own sawmill where, in his “spare” time, he has been preparing timber to build a new house that will be positioned between their two fishponds full of white perch, thanks to receiving pond management technical assistance from NRCS Area 2 Wildlife Biologist Jason Keenan. Mr. Keenan annually checks for fish species, Ph, and nutrients for fish production. That way, as Mr. Holifield stated, “I can look outside every day from any window in the house and appreciate all the many blessings the good Lord has given me!”

Mr. Holifield added, “Lynn and I are super pleased with the NRCS assistance we have received.” “Basically, the Holifields have created their own paradise,” stated Doyle Wheat as he described the farm operation. “NRCS has been very important to the success of this family, and will continue providing them technical assistance as needed.”

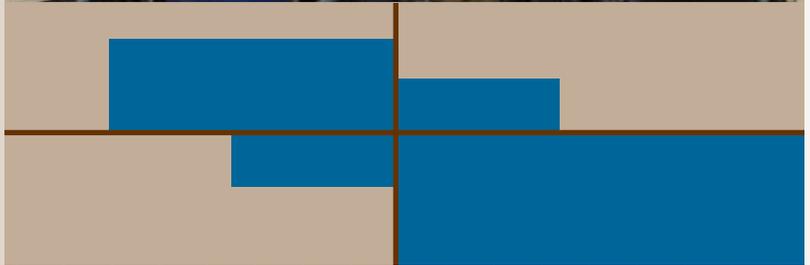


Rankin County Soil and Water Conservation District Donates “Go Gardens” to Wisteria Gardens Rehab Center—

Story and Photo submitted by Heather Dominighini

On October 17, 2012, the Rankin County Soil and Water Conservation District donated two “Go Gardens” to Wisteria Garden’s Rehabilitation Center. The “Go Gardens” are mobile gardens that can be moved to various locations, which provide the residents easy accessibility to plant, water and maintain the flower of their choosing. The gardens were built by the Brandon High School FFA classes with the \$500.00 grant money that was given by the Mississippi Association Conservation District.

Pictured is Hal Williams, Chairman of RCSWCD; Heather Dominighini, RCSWCD District Clerk; Bob Robinson, Brandon High School FFA Instructor; Melba Nipper, Mississippi Association Conservation District; Jessica Mann, Activities Director of Wisteria Gardens; Jimmy Foster, Administrator; along with a few residents.



Joe Addy, NRCS Supervisory District Conservationist for Scott and Newton Counties, explains NRCS programs to the group.

SCOTT COUNTY NEWS—Winston County Self Help Cooperative "Saving Rural America"

From story by Frank Taylor

Winston County Self Help Cooperative (WCSHC), USDA (Farm Service Agency and Natural Resources Conservation Service) and Scott County Extension Office, conducted an outreach meeting on Monday September 17, at the Scott County Extension Office in Forest, MS. More than 20 individuals attended.



Frank Taylor, WCSHC, explained the role of USDA to help small farmers manage their natural resources. **Anita Webb**, Scott County Extension Director, elaborated on services available to help families and communities stimulate income from their natural resources, as well as opportunities for upcoming farmers through 4-H projects. **Mike Everett**, Farm Service Agency County Executive Director and Loan Officer, informed participants of documents needed to obtain services through USDA such as a copy of land deeds or lease agreements to start the process of securing a farm number.

Joe Addy, shown at top left, NRCS Scott & Newton County District Conservationist, presented information on cost-share and incentive programs such as NRCS’ Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) and how it can help with grazing issues, water, cross fence and erosion.



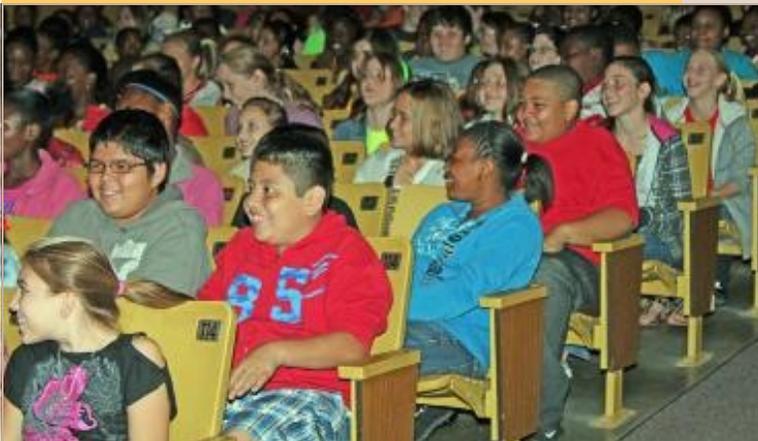


Simpson County Presents Watershed Harmony to Magee Elementary School

Story and Photos by Judi Craddock

Simpson County Soil and Water Conservation District hosted “Watershed Harmony” for over 100 children at the Magee Elementary School on September 21, 2012. The program is a musical puppet play geared towards elementary school age children learning environmental stewardship to promote water quality in their communities. Good for all ages, the performance is a musical adventure that teaches everyone the importance of keeping our water clean! Bayou Town Productions is owned and operated by the Schadler family—Ron, Cherie, and Joey. Go to www.bayoutown.com for further information.

Pictured above: Jeff Wilson, Mississippi Soil and Water Conservation Commission; Mrs. Nell Hughes, Chair of Simpson County Soil and Water Conservation District; and Malcolm Lowe, Supervisory District Conservationist.





Truman Williams (left), who helps to keep up the farm; stands with Roy Noble Lee, Jr., (right) at his cabin in the woods near Forest, MS. Mostly planted in hardwoods, Mr. Lee's 150 acres of forestland are an inspiration to all conservationists who aspire to enjoy the outdoors, the beauty of nature, as well as leave a legacy of conservation to those that follow—or as he puts it, "someone to pick up the torch and carry it!"

previously rented farm equipment such as a grain drill from the Scott County Soil and Water Conservation District.

After meeting with a forester who advised him to check out technical assistance and conservation programs available with NRCS, Mr. Lee contacted the staff at Scott County NRCS office and signed up for the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) and the Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP).

Noble's brother, Steve Lee, was actually the first to care for and manage the Lee property in the beginning. He always wanted a place big enough for game management. Over eight years ago, the first tree planting was done to address several concerns—restore and enhance native habitat for upland and small game as well as deer; and to provide aesthetic benefits to the land.

But since Steve's passing soon afterwards, Noble assumed the job as land manager with the help of a few others including Truman Williams (pictured above); and USDA-NRCS staff including Joe Addy, Supervisory District Conservationist in Forest; and Nathan Tadlock, Soil Conservationist previously in Decatur (now in Raleigh, MS). Originally, the Lee family worked with James Autry who retired from NRCS years ago. Mr. Lee also has close business ties with Tallahala Land Company and Wildwood Limited through which several contracts have been completed on the land.



One of the ponds located on the Lee property in Scott County.

Scott County Tree Farmer Prepares Land for a Legacy—Roy Noble Lee, Jr., Success Story

Story and Photos by Judi Craddock

When not working at his law office as an attorney in Forest, Mississippi, Roy Noble Lee, Jr., (Noble) is doing what he really likes to do—driving or walking around through his woods inspecting the growth and overall health and beauty of his trees and “just enjoying watching them grow!”

Growing up in a farming atmosphere, Mr. Lee already knew about the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), and had dealt with them on occasion as an attorney for the Board of Supervisors in Scott County, and also while serving as a commissioner for the Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks. He had also



Continued from page 11. Left: The “wonder tree”—in the midst of hundreds of other newly planted trees, one tree stands out as a “show off.” All planted as hardwood seedlings at the same time, experts say that the soil index is just “better” in this spot.

Mr. Lee considers himself a “small town lawyer” at the oldest firm in Scott County. His father, Roy Noble Lee, Sr., who was the Chief Justice of the Mississippi Supreme Court, purchased land in seven different counties (Scott, Smith, Jasper, Newton, Rankin, Neshoba, and Madison) during the 1950’s and 60’s. Mr. Lee explained, “My father was an excellent steward and lover of the land, and luckily some of it rubbed off on me.

While in high school, my brother Steve and I were given jobs on the farm including working with cattle. Folks would tell our father that he would go broke in cattle, to which he would just reply, “I’m not raising cows--I’m raising boys!” Apparently his father’s method of “raising boys” worked really well—they both learned responsibility and a strong appreciation for the land.

Mr. Lee’s involvement with the NRCS consists of several completed contracts using both the Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP) and the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP). A total of 502.90 acres of prescribed burning have been completed so far, and 51,182 feet of fire lanes installed. A total of 20.2 acres of Forest Stand Improvement were completed as well. He also has six Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) contracts that cover 92.2 acres, 17.5 of which are in the Continuous Conservation Reserve Program (CCRP). In a new contract not yet completed, 68 acres are planned to be burned and 9,240 feet of fire lanes installed.

Right: Mr. Lee just enjoys keeping an eye on the growth of over 150 acres of recently planted hardwoods of various species such as Shumard, Cow Oak, Burr Oak, Sawtooth Oak, Nuttall, and Red Oak. These plantings were done on his own. Another 75 acres were planted through USDA-NRCS conservation programs.



Over the past few years, Noble and his family have seen wildlife habitat change and increase on his land, and are now enjoying the benefits of completed conservation programs on the property--enhanced recreation and hunting opportunities as well as growing trees (pictured at right).

On a final interesting note, Mr. Lee is a poet! He loves quoting Robert Service’s poems, in particular “*The Men That Don’t Fit In.*” His amazing talent for memorizing and reciting poetry word for word leaves this writer wondering...is this perhaps another gift along with the legacy of conservation that he will leave to future generations?



Smith County Conservation Field Day Shangola Park, September 20, 2012

Story and Photos by Judi Craddock



Sammy Soil (above), Smokey Bear and Woody Owl (below) were welcomed celebrities for the day's events.

On September 20, 2012, approximately 250 teachers and students from Mize, Taylorsville, and Raleigh, Mississippi, attended the annual Smith County Conservation Field Day held at beautiful Shangola Park. Students were shown 12 conservation education stops throughout the park and lake area, and before returning to school were fed hamburgers and hot dogs for lunch. Included in the day's events were Smokey Bear, Sammy Soil, Woody Owl, and guidance from U. S. Forest Service, Mississippi State University Extension Service, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Mississippi Forestry Commission, MS Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks; personnel, retirees and volunteers.



Jason Keenan, Area Wildlife Biologist, shows baby bass in the lake and explains the food chain process.



Smith County Earth Team Volunteers were an essential part of the event's success.



USFS participant explains tree growth rings.



MCES Retiree Mike Rogers demonstrates corn grinding.



What's on your plate? MSU Extension Service explains food groups.

Copiah County Small Farmers Return to Farming on Century Old Family Land

Story and Photos by Judi Craddock

Wayne and Felix Wilson, owners of 75 acres of woodlands and pasture nestled in rural Copiah County, not far from Hazlehurst, are happily retired small farmers on century old farmland previously owned by his grandparents.

Supervisory District Conservationist Bill Russell in the NRCS Hazlehurst Field Office has worked with the Wilsons for the past eight years, and most recently his staff including Randy Kimble (at left), and Bruce Pilgrim, Civil Engineering Technician, not shown.

As a small boy, Mr. Wilson grew up hunting and fishing all the time on his grandparents' farm. He lived in nearby Carpenter, so visiting often wasn't a problem. After finishing high school and two years in the Army, he spent the next 30 years away from Mississippi, working for Inland Steel Containers in Chicago. There he met his charming wife, Felix, in 1968; and possibly there was a little Divine intervention in the works—she just happened to be a native of Belzoni, MS, and very familiar with farm life!

When Mr. Wilson retired in 1983, they moved back "home" to Mississippi where the old property had become his own; but unfortunately he found the old home place had significantly changed and grown up over the years after his mother had died in 1975. A huge, 8-foot ditch ("big enough to swim in," described Mr. Wilson,) now existed right in the front yard of where the old house stood. They soon built a new house on the same site, but they still had to deal with even more erosion problems to come.

After returning to Mississippi, Mr. Wilson started raising cattle over the years as well as clearing the woods for pulpwood production. Over a period of seven years, Mr. Wilson painstakingly cleared 75 acres of woodlands himself, cutting two days and then hauling two days. Taking a huge toll on his back and legs, he hired others to clear the last few acres.



From left: Mrs. Felix Wilson, Randy Kimble (ACES Soil Conservation Technician), and Wayne Wilson, stand together on the Wilson's 100-year old family farm purchased by his grandparents in 1904. Randy and Bill Russell, Supervisory District Conservationist in Hazlehurst NRCS Office (not shown), have worked with the Wilsons over the past eight years with various conservation practices to improve their cattle farming operation.



NRCS assisted the Wilsons in construction of a pond for watering their livestock as well as critical area vegetation on all disturbed areas around the pond as well as the levee.

But crossing the stream that runs through the back portion of the property with heavy logs and equipment was a huge chore—physically detrimental as well as environmentally damaging to the land in the form of gullies and stream bank erosion. They usually had to go a long way to get across the stream too, which was an added problem. Mr. Wilson said that back when his dad crossed horses across the stream, he too had lots of problems. Even though they had put in concrete beams to help for awhile, a huge flood sunk the beams some time later. They continuously lost cattle from drowning as well. That is when they knew they badly needed help! Thankfully, one of their neighbors advised the Wilsons to visit the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service, to see if they qualified for any assistance on their land.

The Wilsons first qualified for the NRCS Environmental Quality Incentives Program, through the Small Farmers Program, and completed the practice “stream crossing” during the last few years. This practice has allowed the Wilson’s livestock better access when crossing the stream on the property without further streambank erosion, degradation of the water from sediment, nutrient and/or organic loading. Beforehand, they had lots of problems with just getting the cattle through the stream, sometimes having to go way upstream to cross, losing several calves along the way too. Now with the new stream crossing practice, this problem has been resolved, as well as serving them with better access to using heavy equipment to remove pulpwood.

In 2012, the Wilsons qualified for the construction of a pond that will be used to provide water for their livestock. Also completed was critical area vegetation on all disturbed ground around the pond including the levee.

During 2012, the Wilsons were also able to complete another conservation practice, herbaceous weed control, which controls evasive and unwanted pasture weeds to improve pasture quality.

In the future, they would like to apply for heavy use area and install a concrete pad for the cows to stand on while feeding. Although they currently move the hay ring every time, the cattle still stand in mud during wet seasons.



Mrs. Felix Wilson, began teaching at the Hazlehurst Middle School, after moving from Chicago. She recently retired in 2011. She also taught reading and GED classes in Copiah County. Although a native of Belzoni, MS, she has “learned” to love her home here and the “peace and quiet of farm life that is so different from Chicago!”

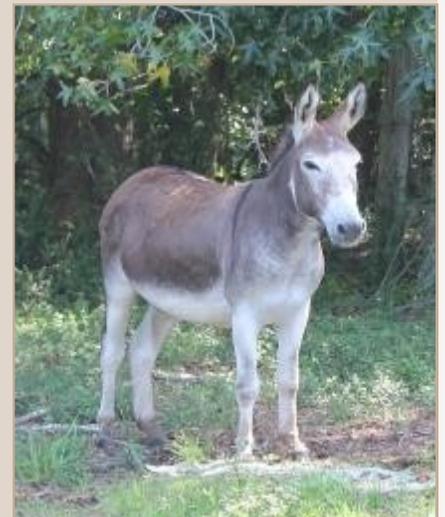


Shown at left and below are healthy cattle including the Wilson’s Black Angus bull, and the newly acquired donkey which serves as the protector of the herd! Donkeys and mules are known for their “adopting the herd” nature, and extreme aggressiveness against coyotes and other predators of cattle and calves, more so than dogs even. Since adding the donkey to the herd, the Wilsons haven’t lost any of their calves due to the donkey’s protectiveness.

Mr. Wilson said he remembered before they got the donkey that he would get on a deer stand and see the coyotes coming for the calves. He would shoot them but that only kept them away for a short while. Recently, riding his 4-wheeler through the woods as he loves to do, he has sighted wild hogs and even seen a few bear tracks near the stream.



The Wilsons stated that they are very happy with the assistance they have received from NRCS, and they like getting monthly updates and newsletters from the Copiah County Soil and Water Conservation District telling them when to fertilize, etc. “It’s a big help to receive all the information they send us,” stated Mrs. Wilson.



New Alcorn 2501 Outreach Specialist Housed at Pearl Area Office

Alcorn 2501 Outreach Specialist Joshua Coleman will be providing outreach assistance to landowners and producers. He will be attending outreach and possibly other NRCS meetings. Area Conservationist David Brunson agreed to provide space in the Area Office to Joshua who can be reached by email at jacoleman@alcorn.edu, or by phone here at the Area Office (601) 965-4559 at extension 234. Welcome, Joshua, to the Pearl Area Office!



Standing from left is Mrs. Carolyn Banks, Interim Director for Small Farm Outreach Training and Technical Assistance, Alcorn State University; David Brunson, NRCS Area Conservationist in Pearl; and Joshua Coleman, the new Alcorn 2501 Outreach Specialist. (Photo by Judi Craddock).



Pictured left to right are James Curtis, Assistant State Soil Scientist; Joxelle Velazquez-Garcia, Soil Scientist in Meridian MLRA; Delaney Johnson, State Soil Scientist; Chris Hatcher, Soil Scientist in Meridian MLRA, and Mike Lilly, ACES Employee in Pearl AO. (Photo by Lisa Horne, District Clerk, Meridian.)

New Soil Scientist Joins the NRCS Family in Mississippi!

Joxelle Velazquez-Garcia is our new soil scientist currently located in the Meridian MLRA Soil Survey Office. Born in Yauco, Puerto Rico, he graduated in May 2012 from the University of Puerto Rico with a B.S. Degree in Soil Science.

Joxelle has always been passionate about earth sciences, natural resources, and astronomy, and is currently serving as the secretary of the Caribbean Astronomical Society. His major hobbies include astronomy and photography.

He served as a soil science trainee with NRCS in Saratoga, Wyoming in 2011, and began in Meridian on September 24, 2012. We are very happy to welcome him to Area 2!

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*“The four basic premises of writing...
clarity, brevity, simplicity, and humanity.”*

*Author Unknown—
from Chinese Fortune Cookie*