



Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)



Joann Floyd

“We knew we didn’t want to sell the farm because our grandparents had worked too hard and invested too much for a place their children and descendants could call home.”

Joann and her cousin Otis attended an event sponsored by Fort Valley State University in March 2011 at Friendship Baptist Church in Americus, Georgia. At the meeting they listened to FSA Sumter County Executive Director, Phil Howell talk about various FSA programs available to landowners. One program in particular, the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) peaked their interest. The two spoke with Phil after the meeting in greater detail about the program. They learned the CRP offers landowners an annual rental payment for devoting farmland to conservation uses. Also, the CRP pays up to 50% of the cost to establish practices on the land that conserve the land’s resources and provide benefits to wildlife.

Together Joann and Otis determined the CRP offered their family the best opportunity to save Otis and Azzie Lee’s farm for all descendants. They could receive cost shares to plant cropland to pine trees for a long term investment and receive rental payments for 10 years which would provide income while the trees were growing on the 37 acres offered.

Joann was delighted to learn the offer was accepted four months later and looks forward to making arrangements for preparing the acreage to be planted to trees and hopefully securing her grandparents dream of leaving a farm legacy for their children and grandchildren. Joann fondly remembers family celebrations on the farm such as July 4th when BBQ was cooked over an open fire and all family members enjoyed socializing; “ Hopefully now, my children, nieces and nephews will all benefit from this and have the same opportunity I had to experience family fellowship.”

FSA HELPS SOCIALLY DISADVANTAGED PRODUCER PRESERVE FAMILY LEGACY

In 1938 Otis and Azzie Lee Floyd purchased a 200 acre farm in Sumter County Georgia. Farming with dedication and hard work, the Floyds were able to pay for their farm and build a house where they raised 8 children and 18 grandchildren including Joann Floyd. Joann recounts memories of her grandmother, “She earned money from selling butter, milk and eggs by milking a cow and raising chickens. My grandfather worked hard in the fields growing corn, cotton and peanuts.”

Otis Floyd died in 1979 and Azzie Lee passed away ten years later in 1989. After their deaths two sons tried farming the family farm, but they were not as successful as Otis Sr. After years of struggling to pay property taxes and maintain the farm and family home, Joann and a fellow grandchild raised on the farm, Otis Floyd, III decided they needed to find a way for the farm to generate income to pay for taxes and maintenance.



Fast Facts

Program: Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)

- provides annual rental income for 10 –15 years while growing timber for long term financial requirements.
- assists estate of socially disadvantaged producer, to preserve family legacy while generating enough income for annual taxes and maintenance.
- The Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) makes annual rental payments based on the agriculture rental value of the land, and it provides cost-share assistance for up to 50 percent of the participant's costs in establishing approved conservation practices.
- Program protects millions of acres of American topsoil from erosion and is designed to safeguard the Nation's natural resources.
- Producers can offer land for CRP general sign-up enrollment only during designated sign-up periods.

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