

Farm reaps NRCS benefits

Perdido River Farms (PRF) is a cow-calf operation with more than 1,000 head of cattle. PRF manages 3,200 acres of Tribal lands, which includes pastureland, hay land and cropland fields planted to summer/winter grazing.

PRF currently employs seven staff members; two are Tribal members and one is first-generation. The staff is committed to being good stewards of the Tribe's agricultural lands and managing the enterprise.

For more than 15 years, Perdido River Farms has been working with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) in developing conservation stewardship plans to address resource concerns and utilize good stewardship practices. The NRCS is an agency under the United States Department of Agriculture

(USDA) that provides technical and financial assistance to land owners.

Two programs that PRF participates in are the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) and the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP). These two programs provide financial assistance in reimbursement payments when conservation practices have been installed to NRCS standard and specifications.

To date, PRF installed 260,545 feet of fencing; 14 livestock water wells; 78,702 feet of pipeline; 700 feet of cattle crossings and 57 livestock shade structures, just to name a few. There are many more things the farm does to keep conservation practices at the highest standards.

PRF shares its success story with NRCS to Tribal members

and others in the community by hosting educational meetings, providing onsite tours and opening the enterprise to youth opportunities.

Through the good stewardship methods and management of PRF and partnership with NRCS, the Tribe has received the highest environmental stewardship award in Alabama.

"We are very proud of this accomplishment and look forward to a continued strong relationship with NRCS for future generations," PRF General Manager John English said.

If you have any questions concerning USDA NRCS programs or activities, feel free to call NRCS Tribal Liaison David Elliott at 251-368-0826.



By Jen Peake | CIEDA Marketing Specialist



PERDIDO RIVER FARMS