

## Conservation for the Generations in Decatur County

Peggy Grissom wants her family to enjoy the family farm she owns in southern Decatur County for generations. In the spring of 2003, she contacted the Natural Resources Conservation Service office to get assistance with her farming operation.

Ms. Grissom has over 50 acres of corn and soybeans on land that gently slopes into a tributary of Stewman's Creek. She and her family want to expand their livestock operation and install conservation practices to control erosion and provide wildlife habitat.

After discussing their options with NRCS Technician David Willis, they decided to sow a 66 ft. wide filter strip adjacent to the creek through the Conservation Reserve Program. The orchard grass sod will help control out of bank erosion during flooding, while providing excellent wildlife habitat.

Through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program, the Grissom's established over 17 acres of Bermuda grass and 30 acres of fescue and clover for grazing and hay. Cross fencing was installed to encourage rotational grazing.

An alternative livestock watering facility supplies the cattle fresh, clean water while keeping them out of existing ponds and creeks. A heavy use feeding area will allow 4 round bales to be fed at a time and will also reduce erosion by eliminating roads across fields.

Mrs. Grissom said "These practices have improved our overall operation, making it safer and easier for us to take care of the livestock while improving the quality of the water leaving the farm. I want to take care of the farm so my grandchildren and great-grandchildren will be able to enjoy the farm as much as we do."



*Mrs. Grissom and grandson John Michael Cole look over the recently completed heavy use area and alternative livestock watering facility installed through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program.*