

**Baker County
U.G.A. Extension & U.S.D.A.
Cooperative
Conservation Program
2001 - 2005**



Baker County Situation

- Located – Southwest Georgia Flint River Basin.
- Population “1980” – 3,808
- “2004” – 4,074
- Projected “2025” – 4,400
- Row crop Land 60,000 Acres – 45,000 Irrigated
- Home for large Southern Plantations.
- More dependent on Agriculture as a percentage of personal income than any other county in Georgia.
- County is typical of a southern rural economically declining Agricultural community.

Public Relations Objective

1999 Goals for Year 2004

Baker County Extension Advisory
Committee.

Baker County R.C.&D.

Economic Development Authority.

1999 Goals For Year 2004

1. Start a County Leadership program.
2. Increase the number of farm cooperatives to retain more income from local grown farm commodities.
3. Promote Eco-Tourism.
4. Increase the number of conservation practices used through USDA cost share programs.

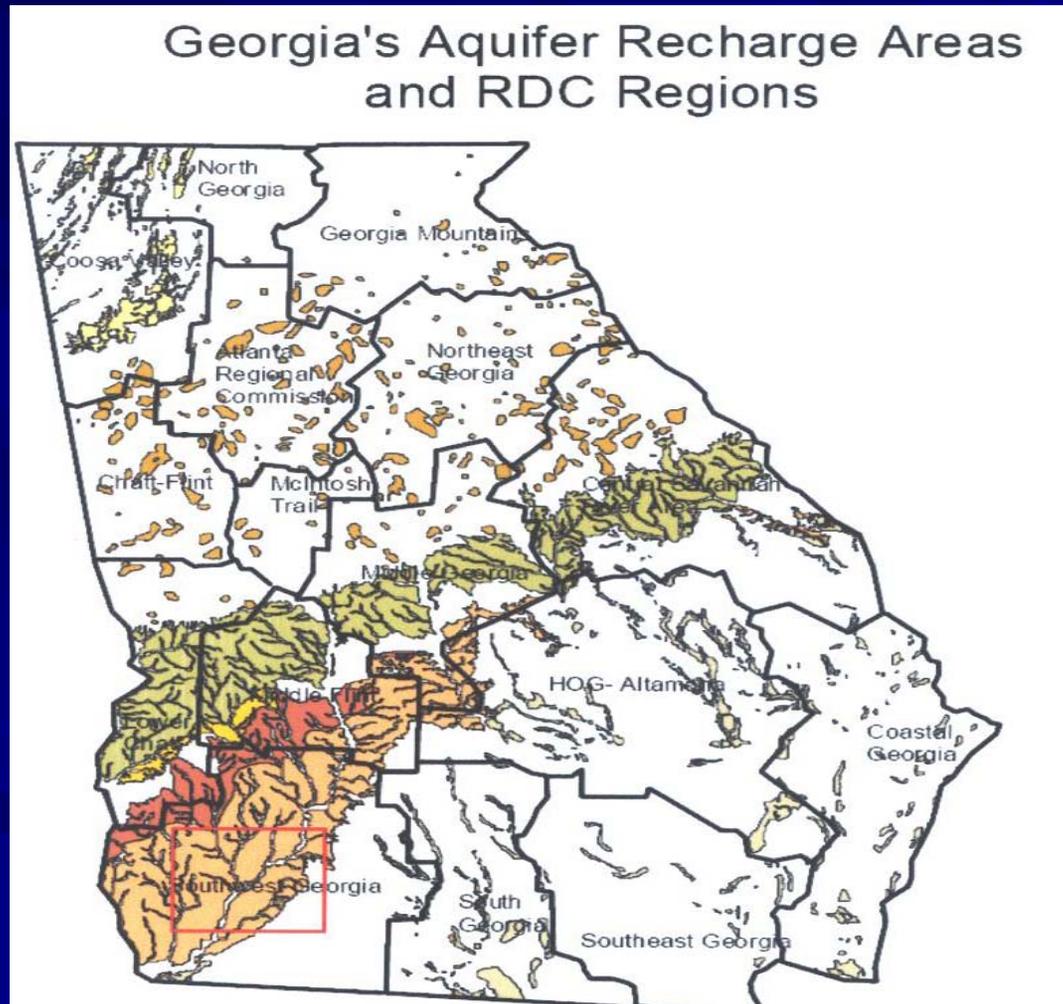
Georgia Extension Service

RC&D

NRCS

- Worked Cooperatively to receive USDA 319 Grant.
- Cost Share for:
 - Poultry Stackhouses
 - Household Well Curbing
 - Poultry Composters
 - Pesticide Mixing Stations
- Grant was named “Targeting Our Aquifer” (TAP)

Targeting Our Aquifer Grant Protect Floridian Aquifer Flint River Basin



TAP Program Partnership

- RC&D – Administrative Agency.
- NRCS – Provide Technical Assistance.
- Extension Service – Write Nutrient Management Plans, Provide Office Space, Educational Service, and Personnel Supervision.
- County Commission in each county provided Fifteen Hundred Dollars.
- All Agencies Assisted in Writing Grant.

Cooperative Development Grant

- U.G.A. Extension and R.C.&D - Worked together to receive a Cooperative Development Grant for Southwest Georgia.
- Year 2003 – 190 Thousand Dollar USDA Grant was funded, Southwest Georgia.
- Steering Committee was established to evaluate project proposals from Southwest Georgia.
- Web Page was published on internet to make the applications available to the public.
- Year 2004 – 266 Thousand Dollar USDA Grant was funded, State of Georgia.
- Year 2005 – 290 Thousand Dollar USDA Grant was funded, State of Georgia.



Cooperative Development Center

*Co-Sponsored by the Center for Agribusiness and Economic Development and the Golden Triangle RC&D



Welcome to the SWGACOOP

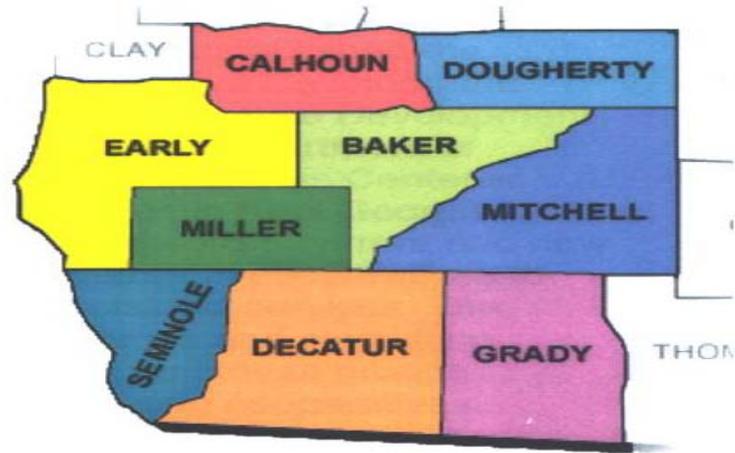
The Southwest Georgia Cooperative Development Center was established from a Grant from the United States Department of Agriculture. This Center is committed to helping groups in rural Georgia find ways to increase their profits from current and new activities by working together in cooperatives to add value to their products. The Center provides the guidance and consulting necessary to help ensure that these groups become profitable, functioning cooperatives.

- About Us
- Cooperatives
- Collaborators
- Services
- Resources
- Projects
- Links
- Contact Us

Services Provided Include:

- Feasibility studies
- Business Planning
- Technical Assistance
- Impact Analysis
- Board Training
- Incorporation Consulting
- By-law Creation Consulting
- Market Identification
- Survey Design and Execution Management

Area Covered:



Southwest Georgia Cooperative Development 2003 Achievements

- Southwest Georgia Escapes – 9 Farm Families
- Southern Gin Company – 16 Thousand Bales
- Patmos Peanut Company – 4000 Tons
- Sunbelt Organic Gold Cooperative –
350,000 Tons Chicken Litter
- Lower Muskogee Creek Tribe –
Indian Reservation Eco-Tourism
- Chad Heard Farm Compost –
Broiler Houses

**Georgia Cooperative
Development Center
Approved Projects 2004**

Date	Project	County	Approval Amount
11-3-04	Farmers' Fresh Food Net Work West GA Multi-Species	Carroll	\$ 6,000.00
11-3-04	Processing Facility Sunbelt Organic Gold Poultry	Carroll	\$ 10,000.00
11-3-04	Chicken Litter Pelletizing Plant	Coffee	\$ 15,000.00
11-3-04	Ethanol Production Facility	Tifton	\$ 15,000.00
12-1-04	Lower Muskogee Creek Tribe	Grady	Extended
1-12-05	Timber Marketing Task Project	Gwinnett	\$ 6,000.00
1-12-05	The Corn Ethanol Plant Project Packing Shed/Consolidation	Bacon	\$ 15,000.00
1-12-05	Project Ogeechee Area Mobile Poultry	Hancock	\$ 7,500.00
1-12-05	Processor System Project Poultry Litter Compost Facility	Hancock	\$ 5,000.00
1-12-05	Project	Oconee	\$ 20,000.00
1-12-05	Lower Muskogee Creek Tribe	Grady	\$ 7,500.00
2-09-05	Pearl Millet Marketing GA Blueberries & Vegetables	Tifton	\$ 25,000.00
3-22-05	Project	Bacon	\$ 15,000.00
3-22-05	Farm Fresh Tattnall	Tattnall	\$ 5,000.00
3-22-05	Golden Seal Extract Project	Whitfield	\$ 5,000.00
TOTAL			\$157,000.00

Conservation Innovation Grant

- Total Project Cost & Federal Funds \$1,153,187.
- Federal Grant Funds \$500,000.
- Southwest Georgia Ichawaynochaway Watershed Cooperative Poultry Litter Composting Project.
- Twenty Two Poultry Producers.
- Compost Potential of 71,000 Tons of Poultry Litter per Year.
- July 1,2005 – June 30, 2008.

Results and Evaluation

■ Extension is seen as being a leader in environmental education:

1. (TAP) Program.

Efforts to Protect Water Aquifer

2. Development of Cooperative Development Center.

3. Work with Chicken Litter Processing.

Results and Evaluation

- Extension is leading in Economic Development Education:

Farmers are viewed more as Ag-Businessmen.

Banks and Lending Institutions see farmers' equity growing.

Extension Service has an outlet to publicly offer economic assistance in each county office.

Result and Evaluation

- Mass Media :

TV, Radio, & Newspapers improved their attitude toward Agriculture from Extension efforts in:

Conservation of Natural Resources

Economic Development

Working closer with other farm

Agencies



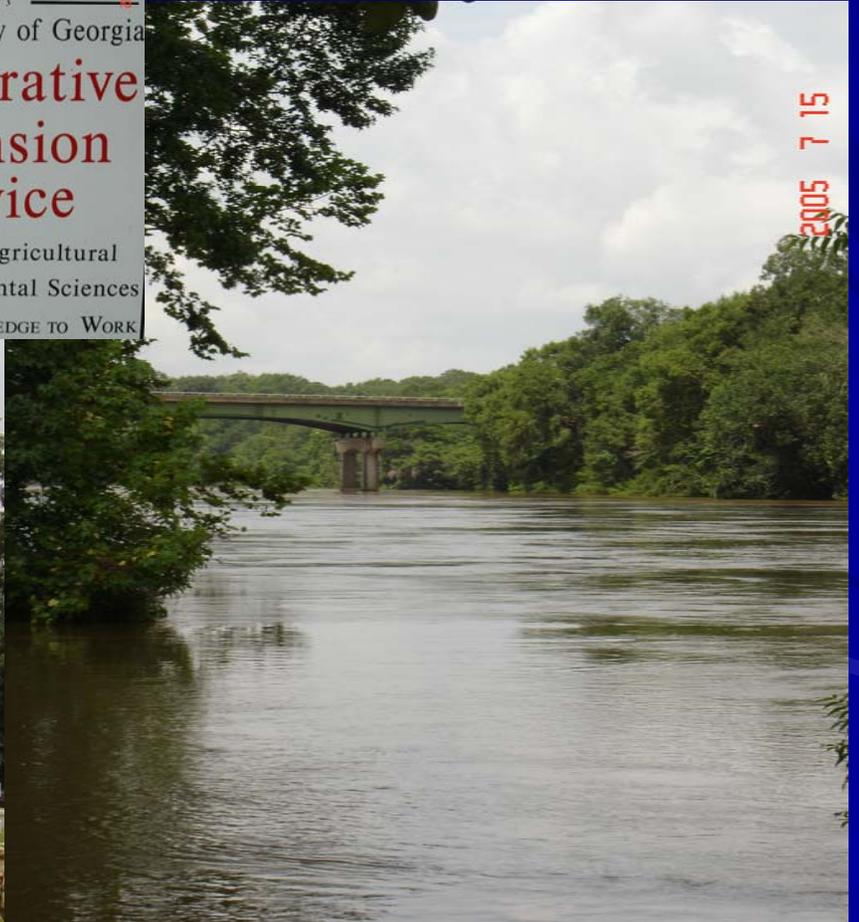
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The University of Georgia
**Cooperative
Extension
Service**
College of Agricultural
and Environmental Sciences
PUTTING KNOWLEDGE TO WORK



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