

Farmer Success Stories



The Prater Family,
Cedar Creek Farm in
Cedarville, Ark.



- stopped using pesticides and fertilizers in 2007
- runoff from large poultry operations near the farm caused algal blooms that started off local waterways.
- The only fertilizer they now use is manure and compost, applied only during the winter.
- Without pesticides, nature's processes quickly filled in the gap – earthworms returned to aerate the soil and more bats and birds arrived to eat the insects.
- no-mow buffer strips around pastures and ponds to absorb rainfall and runoff.
- actions that preserve clean water also allow you to eliminate many costs and increase your bottom line.
- Profits have been increasing at a rate of about 10 percent in recent years.

Farmer Success Stories

Tom Geake,
1,100 acres of corn and
soybean near Wall Lake, Iowa



- algal blooms in the farm pond prompted them to make sustainable changes.
- recycle waste from hogs by injecting manure below the surface of the soil to fertilize the fields and prevent the nutrients from washing down the hills.
- created about 42 acres of buffer strips around the pond and creeks.
- Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) programs have provided guidance and cost sharing.
- use rye as a cover crop during the cold months to protect against wind, rain and snow-related erosion.
- rye draws up excess nitrogen, stabilizes the soil and then recycles nutrients, kicking soil microbe activity into high gear to build healthy soil.

Farmer Success Stories

Robert & Peg Lashley
operate Willow Springs
Market Garden in Little
Rock.



- lettuce, cabbage, radishes, apples, tomatoes and blueberries
- small-scale, specialty-crop farmer
- farmers would go out of business if they found their water choked with algal blooms from runoff of phosphorus or other chemicals. The cost of trucking in water or employing extensive filtration would be prohibitive.
- use homemade compost and horse manure from local stables, as well as blood meal, bone meal and alfalfa meal.
- plant barrier crops around our vegetables to help filter potential runoff and to trap more rainwater in the ground
- use an organic soap spray as a pesticide to avoid utilizing/applying harsh chemicals.
- as these practices spread and consumer demand continues, the environmental and economic benefits will continue to become more visible.