

FEATURE – USDA REACHES OUT TO HISPANIC FARMERS

INTRO: A Hispanic farm family in South Carolina is getting help from USDA to install conservation practices on their farm. The USDA's Bob Ellison has more. (1:33)

THE RUELAS FAMILY MOVED FROM CALIFORNIA TO WESTERN SOUTH CAROLINA TO START A DAIRY FARM. DESPITE BEING FIRST TIME FARMERS FACING LANGUAGE BARRIERS, THEY HAVE BEEN SUCCESSFUL. ALONG THE WAY, THEY WERE HELPED BY CONSERVATION PROGRAMS FROM THE U-S DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE'S NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE. ARNOLD RUELAS HELPS HIS FATHER VICTOR AROUND THE FARM.

Arnold Ruelas, South Carolina Farm Family: They provide help for him to build the fences for the cows and the water troughs and everything so we can make it better for the cows and everything.

Shaun Worley, USDA NRCS: Cross fencing, water troughs, heavy use areas under the water tanks. Prescribed grazing is a big part of it. We did encourage them to utilize the farm bill programs, particularly EQIP so that they could implement some of these practices with cost share assistance.

N-R-C-S IS MAKING A SPECIAL EFFORT TO REACH OUT TO HISPANIC FARMERS. THE AGENCY WANTS TO MAKE SURE THESE FARMERS UNDERSTAND THERE ARE U-S-D-A PROGRAMS AVAILABLE TO HELP THEM PROTECT THE ENVIRONMENT.

Rafael Mendez, USDA NRCS: They are doing an excellent job in this farm because they believe in conservation. They believe in water quality. They believe in keeping natural resource.

AS FOR THE LANGUAGE BARRIER, IT WAS EASILY OVERCOME THROUGH COOPERATION TO REACH COMMON GOALS

Worley: The language barrier is not that difficult. The Ruelas speak, in my opinion, very good English. I have a limited knowledge of Spanish, not enough to be conversational but enough to be able to understand.

FOR THE U-S DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, I'M BOB ELLISON.