

## **Haywood County Farmer Reduces Erosion and Improves Water Quality**

Haywood County farmer Carl Thornton works 1800 acres of mostly no till row crops in Haywood County. He also has 80 acres of pasture and hayland. He utilizes the 80 acres of grass and fall and winter grazing of crop residues and winter cover to support 100 head of cows with calves and 30 first time heifers.

Thornton has received assistance from the Natural Resources Conservation Service and Haywood County Soil Conservation District to improve his cattle operation. He recently received cost share assistance from a Tennessee Department of Agriculture-Ag Resources Non Point special project to convert cropland to pasture and added a pond to improve his rotational grazing.

He is moving toward a more intensive grazing system on small paddocks and has applied for Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) assistance to add watering troughs, heavy use areas and feeding stations. His goal is to keep his cattle out of several small intermittent streams thus reducing erosion and improving the poor conditions which currently exist at winter feeding areas.

Cost share and technical assistance from NRCS and the Soil Conservation District is helping Mr. Thornton achieve his operational goals in an effective manner that protects and improves the resources in his care.