

Opossum Bayou-Tippo Bayou Watershed of Mississippi

FARM #26

Marquitrice Mangham has been farming for about 4 years in Charleston, Mississippi. Her family farm includes approximately 180 acres of cropland, where they grow soybeans and wheat. The land has been in her family for about 70 years and Marquitrice has been farming it for the last 4 years.

Although Marquitrice started with conventional tillage, she has moved towards minimum and no-till over the past few years. She moved to minimum and no-till for several reasons, one being decreased wear on her equipment. "I have very old equipment," Marquitrice said. "The less I have to use my equipment in the field as far as tilling and dragging the disc, the less likely I am to have issues with breakdown."

While Marquitrice was already familiar with financial assistance programs and conservation practices, she appreciated being able to turn to NRCS for support. "I got additional information on practices best suited for my operation from NRCS websites and factsheets," Marquitrice said. "After I read more about the economic and environmental advantages and how local offices could provide additional technical and financial assistance, I enrolled in several programs."

Marquitrice said there are a lot of different benefits from conservation practices that she sees on her land. "Well one, it saves a lot of time. And as far as the economics, I'm not spending as much in maintenance as well as in chemicals to maintain weed and pest control," she said. "I also get a lot of birds and other animals that come around that I didn't see before."

Marquitrice recognizes that change may happen slowly, and she has only been doing these practices for a few years. Her goal is to improve every year. She looks forward to continuing to add crop rotations to her operation and is hopeful that she will see more benefits from these practices in years to come.



View Marquitrice's interview:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=skOYHIQZO1U>

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