

Shelton NWQI success story

By Patty L. McCloud, District Conservationist, Morristown Service Center



Thanks to funding for the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) - National Water Quality Initiative (NWQI) program, less sediment is entering Richland Creek.

Andy Shelton signed up for EQIP-NWQI-Richland Creek to stabilize his streambanks and to install a ford stream crossing. He was having a hard time crossing the creek to reach his 26-acre hayfield on the other side. He had to drive along Highway 11W, which was a safety concern.

Shelton's 195-acre farm lies in the Richland Creek watershed valley in beautiful Grainger County. He has worked with NRCS and Grainger Soil and Water Conservation District for more than 20 years improving his pasture and hay land.

Over the years he has installed a watering system, cross fence, critical areas, and a heavy use area. He has seen improved pasture quality due to his efforts. He also soil-samples regularly and maintains good fertility on his hay fields. This year his soil samples showed he did not need any

lime or fertilizer. This was a good thing due to rising prices on amendments. Maintaining fertility has shown to save money over time.

