



LGFCU
LOCAL GOVERNMENT
FEDERAL CREDIT UNION

2015
**EXCELLENCE IN
INNOVATION**
Awards Program

recognizes the

**Perquimans, Chowan,
and Gates County Landfill**

for development and implementation of

Cattle Grazing on Closed Landfill Cap

Team Members:

**Brad Gardner, Ralph Hollowell,
Jared Harrell, Adam Richardson, Ed Mussler, and
Benjamin Hobbs**

LGFCU Excellence in Innovation Award Project Evaluation

Project Number	IGC-1
Title of Program	Demonstration of cattle grazing on closed county landfill cap
Program Category	Intergovernmental Collaboration
Submission Date	4/2/2015 3:17:00 PM
County	Perquimans, Chowan and Gates County
Employee	Bradley J Gardner
Employee title	Landfill Manager
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County Department	PCG Landfill
Phone	2522976524
Address	759 Perry's Bridge Road Belvidere, NC 27919
County Manager	Mr. Frank Heath
Supervisor	Mr. Ralph Hollowell
Implementation Date	5/1/2014
FLSA Designation	Both (if applicable to a team)
Project Team Members	Mr. Brad Gardner, PCG Landfill Mgr. Mr. Ralph Hollowell, ARHS Env't. Health Director. Mr. Jared Harrell, NC Cooperative Extension Service, Mr. Adam Richardson, Farmer/Producer. Mr. Ed Mussler, Permitting Branch Supervisor, Division of Solid Waste Mgmt, NCDENR. Mr. Benjamin Hobbs, Chairman of the PCG Landfill/Past Perquimans County Commissioner

Description of Productivity Improvement

The 3 county landfill of Perquimans, Chowan and Gates County have taken their closed 26 acre landfill cap and utilized it for rotational grazing using 16 head of cattle in 2014. This closed landfill parcel had otherwise sat vacant and fallow for over 20+years and by utilizing it for cattle grazing by cows it now becomes more productive habitat, provides agriculture acreage to an area farmer and reduces ongoing area taxpayer expense within our department.

Description of why this project was initiated

This landfill had been closed since 1992 and requires annual upkeep. One of the biggest ongoing expenses is keeping it mowed. Each mowing cost \$985 and we had budgeted \$5-10K each and every year to just perform the mowing to keep maintained to NCDENR standards. There is strong local demand for both crop production and cattle grazing acreage. However you can't do both at the same time. Since farming our landfill cap for crop production was deemed to risky due to erosion, disturbing the closed landfill cap, etc. it was decided in conjunction with the Extension Service to possibly utilize the cap for cattle grazing.

Quantifiable results (sustainability, cost savings, cost avoidance and/or a higher level of service).

Indication of what resources were used and what was done with any accrued time savings

This project had an upfront cost totaling: \$3,576.64. The 2 items being \$426.64 in a waterline and spigot installation. The 2nd being \$3,150 in wiring an electric outlet to the edge of landfill cap. We estimate the return on our investment will be within one year due to the avoided cost of mowing. We typically mowed the landfill cap 4-5 times a year depending on weather. We have signed a 4 year agreement with the NC Extension Agency vetted farmer, Adam Richardson. We have not charged the farmer any rent or made any income from him. This is a pilot project that will mutually help both parties. This may be reconsidered in the future. Mr. Jared Harrell of the Extension Svc. will act as our consultant/3rd party in making sure we stay within the rules of our permit with NCDENR. Jared also works closely with the farmer to insure best practices of production of cattle within our facility. The 3 counties taxpayers have valuable acreage that otherwise sat empty now producing a commodity that may be sold at the national level. This project demonstrates to the public and local elected officials that we as a rural 3-county solid waste department are finding new, creative ways to avoid long-term fixed costs associated with managing solid waste. This annual \$5,000-\$10,000 in avoided mowing fees can then be used to go after other "low-hanging fruit" projects within the department of solid waste and recycling.

Other descriptive information

This is the first project of it's kind in the State of NC. We are located in 3 rural counties where farming is still a very big industry and backbone within our local economy. Demonstrates state and local government collaborating and working together at the local level to help citizens. As a local landfill department being a good steward to this industry in exploring alternative sites for cattle production. It kind of shows that recycling starts at the root too...

