

# CORPORATE CURE PROJECT

The Corporate CURE project involves hog producing farms in Bladen and Sampson Counties. This CURE area got started in 2004 with an Environmental Enhancement Grant (EEG) from the North Carolina Department of Justice (DOJ) and involved Murphy-Brown's 4,000 acre Ammon Complex. Anchored by the Ammon Complex and the Suggs Mill Pond Game Lands, the Corporate CURE area increased to 7,000 acres with another EEG award in 2007 and the addition of nine more farms.

One of the main goals of this project is to show that viable working farms can be very productive and provide small game habitat while also protecting and/or improving water quality. This goal is accomplished by creating field borders around row crops and pasture land. Most of these naturally vegetated borders are along ditches or woodland habitat and can trap sediment, absorb herbicides, and uptake nutrients.

Other goals in the Corporate CURE area include installing native warm season grasses, improving timber stands for wildlife, educating landowners, and working with the partners to infuse Best Management Practices into all parts of their farms.

Unlike other private land CURE areas, the farms involved in this project are not reimbursed for any land taken out of production, and water samples are taken to monitor nutrients in the drainage ditches. Similar to other CURE areas, winter bird surveys, spring bird and summer quail point counts, and fall covey counts are conducted to ensure that management plans are improving habitat for quail and other focal bird species.

At this point, over 150 acres have been taken out of production, and we are currently working with the new farms to get started on buffer installation there while continuing the work on the Ammon Complex.

If you would like more information on this project or would like to attend one of the educational workshops and field tours, please send an e-mail to [cure\\_tour@yahoo.com](mailto:cure_tour@yahoo.com) with "tour" in the subject line.



**Six month old border**



**One year old border**



**“Inside a 2 year old border”. Notice the ground space for quail to walk with overhead protection from predators. The taller plants will also prevent windblown herbicides and irrigation effluent from entering waterways. This photo was taken 2-14-08.**



**Border standing out after corn harvest**

# CORPORATE CURE FARMS

