

HARRISON COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT

SUCCESS STORY

State Cost Share 2019

Bo Renfro Winter Feeding Structure

Harrison County landowner, Ms. Colson, applied in 2019 for cost share assistance to install a winter feeding pad. After discussion with our technical staff, she decided the best option for her operation was to construct a Bo Renfro Concrete Winter Feeding Structure.

Ms. Colson feeds 20 Black Angus Cow/Calf pairs from this structure; 5 roll bales every 5 days. **Ms. Colson opted to add a roof over the roll bales at landowner cost. Recently, her farm operation has adapted to storing all hay indoors, and Ms. Colson wanted to continue to protect the hay quality and reduce the loss ratio of her fed hay by feeding it under roof as well (not included in cost share funds).

Currently, SCS funds are limited to \$7,500 per contract, which can make installing this practice extremely difficult. Ms. Colson was fortunately able to self-build with the assistance of family and friends, allowing her to minimize expenses. If this project was subcontracted out, it would cost \$15,000 - \$20,000 (estimate) to build.

This feeding structure has been a game changer in Ms. Colson's operation in the first few weeks of use! Ease of feeding, decrease in wasted hay, and manure management have drastically improved.

The Harrison County Conservation District hopes to see increased participation in this Best Management Practice in the near future.



Site prepared for concrete



Texturizing concrete for cattle stability



Completed structure, ready for use!



Remains of 5 roll bales through cold/wet weather