



## NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## Arkansas Cotton Farmers and University of Arkansas System Divisions Cooperative Extension Service Specialists to Share Impact of Soil Health Practices

**Newport, Ark., February 2, 2021** – The Soil Health Institute (SHI), the non-profit charged with safeguarding and enhancing the vitality and productivity of soils, invites you to join Arkansas farmers and soil health researchers during its *Healthy Soils for Sustainable Cotton Farmer Showcase*, 1 p.m. (CST), **February 16, 2021**. In this virtual online episode, “Soil Health in Arkansas: Is it Profitable?” Dr. Bill Robertson, Cotton Agronomist, and Mr. Matt Fryer, Soil Instructor, University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture Cooperative Extension, will moderate a roundtable discussion with cotton producers who have different levels of experience related to soil health practices and activities – as well as different views about tillage and cover crops.

Showcase farmer Mr. Adam Chappell, Cotton Plant, Ark., has been using no-till and cover crops on his 9000-acre farm for more than 10 years. He raises cotton, corn, soybeans, and rice. Besides increases in soil organic matter, Mr. Chappell says cover crops appear to have reduced pest pressures. He attributes this to providing diverse habitat for beneficial insects. Reducing input cost is one of his primary goals. Meanwhile, Mr. Wes Kirkpatrick, Dumas, AR, says he is happy with his soil health management system that includes no-till and use of cereal grains as his primary cover crop. The systems have improved water infiltration and reduced weed pressure, he adds. Mr. Jesse Flye, Trumann, AR, is new to cover cropping. He’s interested in expanding his cover crop acres and says he hopes to achieve many of the benefits that other producers have recorded.

The *Healthy Soils for Sustainable Cotton Farmer Showcase* is a series of eight online discussions with U.S. cotton farmers and soil health experts that are livestreamed at 1 p.m. (CST) each Tuesday through March 23, 2021. Cotton producers, consultants and other interested parties may register one time to attend all eight episodes. Registration is free but required to participate.

To register for the *Healthy Soils for Sustainable Cotton Farmer Showcase* and learn more about other episodes in the event, visit <https://soilhealthinstitute.org/soil-health-training/farmer-showcase/>.

This event is part of the *Healthy Soils for Sustainable Cotton* project, which provides farmer-focused education and training events delivered by Soil Health Institute scientists, partnering with local soil health technical specialists and farmer mentors who have implemented successful soil health management systems. The project aims to increase the adoption of soil health management systems among cotton producers while documenting environmental and economic benefits.

*Healthy Soils for Sustainable Cotton* is supported through the generosity of the [Wrangler®](#) brand, the [VF Corporation Foundation](#) and the [Walmart Foundation](#). For more information about the project, visit <https://soilhealthinstitute.org/soil-health-training/>.

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### **About the Soil Health Institute**

The Soil Health Institute ([www.soilhealthinstitute.org](http://www.soilhealthinstitute.org)) is a non-profit whose mission is to safeguard and enhance the vitality and productivity of soil through scientific research and advancement. The Institute works with its many stakeholders to identify gaps in research and adoption; develop strategies, networks and funding to address those gaps; and ensure beneficial impact of those investments to agriculture, the environment and society.

### **About the University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture**

The University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture's mission is to strengthen agriculture, communities, and families by connecting trusted research to the adoption of best practices. Through the Agricultural Experiment Station and the Cooperative Extension Service, the Division of Agriculture conducts research and extension work within the nation's historic land grant education system. The Division of Agriculture is one of 20 entities within the University of Arkansas System. It has offices in all 75 counties in Arkansas and faculty on five system campuses. For more information, visit <https://soilhealthinstitute.org/soil-health-training/farmer-showcase/>.

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