



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Georgia Farmers Will Share Lessons Learned in Improving Soil Health During Virtual Cotton Farmer Showcase

Waynesboro, GA, February 16, 2021 – The Soil Health Institute (SHI), the non-profit charged with safeguarding and enhancing the vitality and productivity of soils, is hosting the fifth episode in its virtually held *Healthy Soils for Sustainable Cotton Farmer Showcase*, at 1 p.m. (CST) on March 2, 2021.

The latest episode of the showcase, “Soil Health in a Cotton and Peanut Rotation: Spotlight on Georgia,” will focus on how to improve soil health in a rotation that includes cotton and peanuts. During the online discussion, Peyton Sapp, Burke County Georgia Extension Coordinator, will present some preliminary results from the long-term crop rotation plots at the Southeast Georgia Research farm near Midville, GA. In addition, Burton Heatwole, a farmer in Millen, GA, will discuss his use of multi-species cover crops to address soil health issues on his farm.

“When I planted my first individual cotton crop, I started with conventional, went into strip till cover, then went into peanuts,” said Heatwole. “Using that rotation strategy, in just three years I’m seeing less disease pressure, fewer weeds, less insect damage and improved soil health than I ever did on my family’s farm growing up.”

“We’ve been advising growers on diverse crop rotation with multispecies covers for years,” noted Sapp. “Where growers are using five or six species of cover crops, farmers are seeing less soil compression, greater nematode suppression and better moisture retention.”

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 started livestreaming on February 2, 2021 and runs every Tuesday at 1 p.m. (CST) 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 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 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) 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 UGA Extension

UGA Extension operates through a unique partnership with Burke County, the University of Georgia, the U. S. Department of Agriculture and the State of Georgia. UGA Cooperative Extension was founded in 1914 to bring research-based information to the people of Georgia backed by specialists and a network of resources. Today, UGA Extension serves more than 2.6 million Georgians annually. From publications to in-person workshops and events, Extension is ready to meet the needs of the state and its communities. UGA Extension is on the forefront of food safety, technology, research, and education; keeping Georgia's economy strong and making life better for Georgians.

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About Philanthropy at Walmart

Walmart.org represents the philanthropic efforts of Walmart and the Walmart Foundation. By leaning in where the business has unique strengths, Walmart.org works to tackle key social issues and collaborate with others to spark long-lasting systemic change. Walmart has stores in 27 countries, employs more than 2 million associates and does business with thousands of suppliers who, in turn, employ millions of people. Walmart.org is helping people live better by supporting programs that work to accelerate upward job mobility for frontline workers, address hunger and make healthier, more sustainably grown food a reality, and build strong communities where Walmart operates. To learn more, visit www.walmart.org or connect on Twitter @Walmartorg.