A Sod Based Rotation for Peanut and Cotton. (A08marois130657-Oral)

Authors:

- J.J.Marois* University of Florida
- D.L.Wright University of Florida
- D.L.Hartzog Auburn University
- . J.A.Baldwin University of Georgia

Abstract:

Four year rotation experiments will be used to test the hypothesis that by introducing two years of bahiagrass into the traditional peanut-cotton rotation, sufficient economic and environmental benefits will be realized such that a 200 acre farm will be a viable option for a family business. The objectives are: 1) Develop and compare the economic and environmental benefits of conventional and sod based farming systems using conservation tillage systems, 2) Quantify the positive impact that sod based rotations have on soil health, pest reduction, and sustainable farm production, and 3) Refine and promote production practices in a sod based rotation which result in significant yield increases associated with decreased inputs. Plots will be established at 4 sites (one each in Alabama and Georgia and two in Florida) in a conventional cotton-cotton-peanut or cotton-peanut rotation and the 4 year bahiagrass-bahiagrass-peanut-cotton rotation. The crop management will be conservation tillage systems utilizing the most advanced tillage and planting equipment, genetics, and farming and animal production practices. Best management practices appropriate for each site will be used during the cropping season, but treatments in each trial will be as consistent as possible. Detailed data will be taken on all farming practices as well as crop performance and economic data.

Corresponding Author Information:

James Marois University of Florida 155 Research Road Quincy, FL 32351 phone: 850 875-7120 fax: 850 875-7148 e-mail: marois@mail.ifas.ufl.edu

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