

Measuring Peanut Sustainability Production Practices Using the Field to Market Fieldprint Calculator in Georgia

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As the world's population continues to grow, the demand for food and fiber sources has increased. With this increase, it has also led to consumer interest in purchasing food and fiber products that were grown sustainably. Peanuts are an essential row crop that are typically grown as a part of a conventional crop rotation in Georgia. Field to Market: The Alliance for Sustainable Agriculture presents a unique opportunity to quantify and measure peanut sustainability across the state with the use of their Fieldprint Calculator. This tool allows researchers and growers to manage sustainability practices of the crop and how they vary from year-to-year by providing scores to eight different sustainability metrics. These eight metrics include energy use, soil conservation, water quality, irrigation water use, land use, soil carbon, biodiversity, and greenhouse gas emissions. Researchers met with 45 South Georgia peanut growers beginning in 2014 for this on-going research. Throughout this study, trends can be identified across the various sustainability metrics. The energy use, irrigation water use, soil conservation, and soil carbon metrics had the highest scores across the growers enrolled in this project. Identifying these metric trends will lead to educational efforts focused on crop production improvements so growers may be more productive and sustainable. As data collection continues in the coming years, researchers are working with these growers and their Extension agents to help them make the appropriate changes to improve the grower's sustainability metrics for the crop.