

Conservation Agriculture

Conservation Agriculture refers to a set of agricultural practices that supports biosequestration via crop rotation, managing soil organic matter including cover crops, and reduced tillage.

QUICK FACTS

- Georgia has about 3.8 million acres of croplands.
- In Georgia, 47% of croplands are already under conservation tillage practices.
- According to Project Drawdown, conservation agriculture practices increase the carbon sequestration rate at an average of 0.2 tons of carbon per acre per year.
- Cotton & peanut dominates more than 50% of the croplands in Georgia.

BEYOND CARBON

- Conservation agriculture has many environmental benefits. It improves water quality and quantity, lowers soil erosion, and improves soil health.
- Farmers may see increases in crop/agricultural yield, which can increase income and wages.
- Issues to watch include concerns around cultural fit and use of excessive herbicides, particularly for farmers that worry conservation agriculture will vary yield and income, especially for certain row crops.

FOOD & AGRICULTURE

GEORGIA'S 2030
MEGATON OPPORTUNITY

We could reduce 0.5 Mt of CO2e in Georgia if we increased conservation agriculture practices so that 90% of the croplands in the state practiced conservation tillage.

Lead Researchers

Dr. Sudhagar Mani Professor School of Chemicals, Materials, and Biomedical Engineering University of Georgia

Dr. Jeffrey D. Mullen Associate Professor Agricultural & Applied Economics University of Georgia

