

## **Project Summary**

**Project Title:** Improving Profitability of Conservation Tillage Systems for Wheat and Feed Grains in Alabama.

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**Summary:** The purpose of this project was to evaluate the effects of conservation tillage systems used by farmers in Alabama on farm input usage and whole-farm profitability, as well as determine the economic potential for producing bio-energy crops on-farm. Since the beginning of the project, two new farmers have been added to the study for data collection and over 200 copies of the Conservation Tillage Systems Learning Tool, an economic decision aide to educate farmers and the public about the economic benefits of conservation tillage systems in the Southeast. In terms of the biofuel component of the project, a survey of Alabama farmers was conducted in conjunction with USDA-NASS and Auburn University to examine cover crop adoption, management, and potential use as a cellulosic biofuel feedstock. Data has just been obtained and is in the process of being analyzed and summarized. Furthermore, a whole-farm modeling program to examine the impact of alternative biofuel feedstock alternatives is being developed in EXCEL in conjunction with the National Peanut Research Laboratory, USDA-ARS in Dawson, GA. A case study examination using experimental field-level data (USDA-ARS), farm demographic and financial information (Alabama Farm Analysis Group), and environmental models (EPIC) is being developed using the whole farm program. Initial results are expected sometime mid-year.