

Proceedings of the
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Tillage Conference
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FOREWORD

Adoption of conservation tillage by growers is increasing throughout the South. Compliance with the soil erosion control provisions of the 1985 Food Security Act is one reason for the growing popularity of conservation tillage systems. Conservation tillage can also potentially reduce production costs and increase yield. This year's conference theme, "Conservation Tillage for Improving Profitability," was chosen to emphasize that conservation tillage is not just an option for controlling soil erosion. It is a management technique farmers can consider to improve the financial aspects of their business.

As in the rest of the region, conservation tillage acreage is increasing in South Carolina. In 1993, about 25% of double-cropped soybeans and over 17% of the corn grown in the state were produced with some form of conservation tillage. Acreage for other crops will undoubtedly increase as optimal conservation production practices are determined and the technology is transferred to growers. For example, conservation tillage cotton research has increased considerably during the last few years. As recent as the late 1980's, this proceedings contained only one or two papers each year dealing with cotton. In this volume, 12 of the 39 papers discuss conservation tillage cotton research.

Protecting the environment and ensuring a sustainable agriculture are priority issues for Americans in the 1990's. South Carolina appreciates the opportunity to host this annual meeting about farming systems that can help both.

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