

Farmer Success Stories



The Gwinn Family,
1137 Acre Farm in Suwannee
County, Florida

- watermelons, peanuts, iron clay peas, bahiagrass seed, hay, beef cattle
- By utilizing cover crops and herbaceous wind barriers, they conserve many tons of soil by protecting the soil from wind erosion.
- They retrofit their existing center pivot irrigation systems (in an Irrigation Retrofit Initiative through EQIP) to increase their efficiency and distribution uniformity in an effort to conserve water.
- They installed GPS systems in their tractors that are used for precision planting, nutrient application, and pesticide application.

Farmer Success Stories



Jones Potato Farm,
4000 Acre Farm in Manatee
County, Florida

- precision farming, variable application methods and center-pivot irrigation system have led to a 30% reduction in fertilizer use and a 60% reduction in water use.
- Potatoes are planted from Oct.-Jan., green beans are rotated in to 1,000 acres. This adds organic matter back into the soil and maintains nitrogen levels.
- Soil samples and mapping allow them to add compost, fertilizers and natural manures only where needed to get ideal nutrient levels .

<https://www.nature.org/en-us/what-we-do/our-priorities/provide-food-and-water-sustainably/florida-potato-farmer-reaps-the-benefits-of-soil-health/>

Farmer Success Stories



The Grooms Family,
Fancy Farms in Plant City,
Florida
(125 acres of berries)

- Grooms focuses on precise nutrient applications because "it makes sense from an economic, environmental, and production standpoint."
- "We are putting the nutrients where they need to be based off grid sampling rather than slinging a bunch of fertilizer across fields that could get blown away or rained down to the creek."
- Plant cover crops in the summer between crops: sun hemp, sunflower, sorghum, buckwheat, mustard, aeschynomene, crimson clover, and cow peas.
- He also applies microbes, humic acids, and biochar to the soil.
- Soil moisture monitors help make more informed decisions on irrigation. He worked with Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services on a cost-share for the sensors.
- The farm also has tailwater recovery ponds on about 1/3 of its fields to recycle irrigation and rainwater.