AG WATER USE AND POLICY IN THE SOUTHEAST

USDA Agricultural Outlook Forum
“Building on Innovation: A Pathway to Resilience”
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WHO WE ARE

An **objective, statewide** institution that assists policymakers in designing policies that provide for improved **water resource management** in Georgia via water planning, research, education and technical assistance.
Center Pivots in AL and GA

Map by Cameron Handyside, UAH. AL data UAH; GA data ASU GWPPC
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So, what about the policy?
The Sustainable **Irrigation Expansion** Watershed Planning (PL-566) project seeks to **increase** the number of **irrigated agricultural acres** in Alabama that benefits rural communities and minimizes impacts to environmental, historical, and cultural resources.

The USDA NRCS oversees implementation of the project that includes on-farm evaluations and the Alabama Soil and Water Conservation Committee serves as the sponsoring local organization. Auburn University and the University of Alabama in Huntsville develop the plans to assist in prioritization of farms for sustainable irrigation expansion.
Over here...

No New Permits
So where are we headed?
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Cycles of Floods and Droughts

Annual Rainfall (inches)

Average Annual Rainfall = 50 inches
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- Let’s try to avoid...
Discussing Water Rights, A Western Pastime