Drought Mitigation Practices in Production Agriculture in the Southeast

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“Helping People Help the Land”
How is SC USDA/NRCS addressing drought and water resource concerns?

**Technical Assistance:** soil interpretations, walking the land with producers, offer suggestions to improve the resource or make it more efficient

**Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)**
- 3 year contracts
  Ex: 400 acre farm has leaky center pivot irrigation system or impact sprinklers
  Resource concern: Inefficient use of irrigation water
  Solution: Replace pivot or replace impact sprinklers with low pressure drop nozzles
  Also would recommend a soil moisture sensor to help producer learn when the irrigation system needs to be turned on

**Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)**
- 5 year payment program
- rewards producers for good conservation, requires an enhancement
  Ex: 1,000 acre farm practicing Strip tillage and has a nutrient management plan
  enhancement: farmer may decide to implement cover crops on 200 acres
Conservation Innovation Grants (CIG)

2020- Mobile Irrigation Lab (MIL)

NRCS, Aiken SWCD, Clemson, SCDA, SCDNR, Farm Bureau

- Before and after calibration of center pivots
- Hope to produce water savings information to State legislators
Thank you

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