

GULF ATLANTIC COASTAL PLAIN LONG TERM AGROECOSYSTEM RESEARCH SITE, TIFTON, GA

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The Gulf-Atlantic Coastal Plain (GACP) physiographic region is an important agricultural production area within the southeastern U.S. that extends from Delaware in the Northeast to the Gulf Coast of Texas. The region consists mainly of low-elevation flat to rolling terrain with numerous streams, abundant rainfall, a complex coastline, and many wetlands. The GACP Long Term Agroecosystem Research (LTAR) site is representative of the Tifton-Vidalia Upland (TVU) physiographic subprovince which has relatively homogeneous geology, soils, parent materials, land use, agricultural management, and economic and social patterns. Total row crop land in the TVU is about 18 percent of the land area. The remaining land in farms is primarily in woodland or pastureland. The 65 percent of the TVU that is not in farms is primarily privately owned forest land with about 5 percent of the TVU in urban, suburban, rural housing, or transportation uses. Research efforts at the GACP LTAR encompass broad subject areas that are critical to agricultural systems in the Southeastern Coastal Plain and are designed to develop ecologically-based, whole-farm and area-wide approaches that rely on the inherent strengths of our agricultural production systems. Principal crops in descending order of acreage are cotton, peanut, corn, soybean, and wheat. GACP LTAR sustainable scenario development is focused on sustainable intensification of crop production in the face of increased water demand, periodic drought cycles, heavy pest and weed pressure, and expectations of increased biofuel feedstock production in the Southeastern U.S.

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Citation for proceedings: Stringer, Christina E.; Krauss, Ken W.; Latimer, James S., eds. 2016. Headwaters to estuaries: advances in watershed science and management—Proceedings of the Fifth Interagency Conference on Research in the Watersheds. March 2-5, 2015, North Charleston, South Carolina. e-Gen. Tech. Rep. SRS-211. Asheville, NC: U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service, Southern Research Station. 302 p.