## Transition Strategies for an Organic Peanut-Grain Cropping System

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### The Situation
- Demand for organic peanuts exceeds supply
- Hot & humid Georgia climate makes diseases a major issue
- Great advances in breeding disease resistant cultivars opens new possibilities for organics
- Weed control a serious challenge
- Heavy reliance on cultivation (no-till, strip-till not recommended at present)
- Land certification takes 3 years using only approved organic products on fields
- Transitioning land to certification without certified organic price premiums can be costly
- Research underway by UGA and USDA to determine feasibility of organic peanut production and potential systems for transition

### Materials and Methods
- Four locations
  - Ponder Farm (UGA Tifton)
  - Hort. Hill (UGA Tifton)
  - C.A.S.E. Farm (Irwin County)
  - Martin Farm (Dodge County)
- Four cropping systems
  1. Fallow – Fallow – Peanut
  2. Pearl Millet – Cowpea – Peanut
  3. Cowpea – Pearl Millet – Peanut
  4. Bahiagrass – Bahiagrass – Peanut
- All locations, all plots (except bahiagrass) will be planted to Rye-Crimson Clover mix in winter.

### Objectives
- Determine effectiveness of crop systems for weed management and soil quality improvement
- Evaluate impact of transition strategies on organic peanut production and return on investment
- Determine how management characteristics relate to crop yield and economic return of transition strategies over the transitional period
- Investigate alternative marketing strategies for transitional crops and peanut (pods and vegetation)