Water – Corporate Responsibility for a Precious Resource in Peril

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GAC Organizational Objectives

- Legislative and Regulatory Involvement at State and Federal Level
- Economic Services for Members
- Promote development in the Agribusiness Industry

- Build Agricultural Coalitions
- Educate the Public about the Food and Fiber Industry
- Support Educational Opportunities for Young People
Ladies and Gentlemen, We must:

- Assess the resources on the land, the conservation problems and opportunities.
- Draw on various sciences and disciplines and integrate all their contributions into a plan for the whole property.
- Work closely with land users so that the plans for conservation mesh with their objectives.
- Through implementing conservation on individual properties, contribute to the overall quality of the life in the watershed or region.
- **Founding Principles of Soil Conservation Act of 1935**
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On quantity/use issues…

- Are Best Practices Good Enough?
  - GPS
  - Soil moisture telemetry
  - Variable rate
  - End gun shut-off
  - Drip
On issues of water quality.....

- Are Best Practices good enough?
  - Stream crossings
  - Wetland fencing
  - Strip cropping systems
  - Grassed waterways
  - Conservation tillage
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Conservation Tillage
- Builds organic matter
- Reduces runoff
- Improves utilization

Cotton – 900,000 acres
50% irrigated; 40% Conservation Tillage
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Conservation Tillage

- Builds organic matter
- Reduces runoff
- Improves utilization

Peanut – 650,000 acres

50% irrigated; 30% conservation tillage
On matters of state and federal policy…..

- Are Best Practices good enough?
  - Meters in Georgia by July 1, 2009
  - Audit and retrofit programs
  - New Conservation Stewardship Program under Farm Bill
  - Public benefit deserves public investment
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Thank You.

God Bless America Please