



## NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## North Carolina Farmers Share Lessons Learned in Improving Soil Health During Virtual Cotton Farmer Showcase

**Scotland Neck, NC, February 23, 2021** – The Soil Health Institute (SHI), the non-profit charged with safeguarding and enhancing the vitality and productivity of soils, invites you to join Mr. Robbie Waters, manager of the Edwards Cotton Company, and Mr. Zeb Winslow, a farmer in Scotland Neck, North Carolina, at the virtually held *Healthy Soils for Sustainable Cotton Farmer Showcase*, at 2 p.m. (EST) on March 9, 2021.

The sixth episode of this event, "Soil Health: View from the Cotton Gin: Spotlight on North Carolina/Virginia," will focus on how soil health systems benefit the cotton industry. Mr. Winslow will share his experience using no-till, cover crops, and nutrient management to improve his soil health and the impact that it had on his cotton yields.

"I've learned that getting my cover crops not just planted, but also terminated, in a timely manner are key to my soil health management," said Mr. Winslow. "Last year, I used a split row planter to seed 750 acres with cover crops. In the spring, I'll use a roller crimper to go back over all my acres. We've found something that really works, and we're never going back to our old ways."

For Mr. Waters, he's most concerned with the environmental and economic sustainability of cotton production. "With the right tools and knowledge of soil health, American cotton farmers can grow better cotton fiber using fewer resources like water and fertilizer. Helping them implement a soil health system is key to meeting industry demand in the future."

The *Healthy Soils for Sustainable Cotton Farmer Showcase* is a series of eight online discussions with U.S. cotton farmers and soil health experts that started livestreaming on February 2, 2021, and it runs every Tuesday at 2 p.m. (EST) through March 23, 2021. Cotton producers, consultants, and other interested parties may register one time to attend all eight episodes.

Registration is free but required to participate. Following the conclusion of the series, all showcase episodes will be available on the Soil Health Institute's [YouTube](#).

To register for the *Healthy Soils for Sustainable Cotton Farmer Showcase* and learn more about other episodes in the event, visit <https://soilhealthinstitute.org/soil-health-training/farmer-showcase/>.

This event is part of the *Healthy Soils for Sustainable Cotton* project, which provides farmer-focused education and training events delivered by Soil Health Institute scientists, partnering with local soil health technical specialists and farmer mentors who have implemented successful soil health management systems. The project aims to increase the adoption of soil health management systems among cotton producers while documenting environmental and economic benefits.

*Healthy Soils for Sustainable Cotton* is supported through the generosity of the [Wrangler](#)<sup>®</sup> brand, the [VF Corporation Foundation](#), and the [Walmart Foundation](#). For more information about the project, visit <https://soilhealthinstitute.org/soil-health-training/>.

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#### **About the Soil Health Institute**

The Soil Health Institute ([www.soilhealthinstitute.org](http://www.soilhealthinstitute.org)) is a non-profit whose mission is to safeguard and enhance the vitality and productivity of soil through scientific research and advancement. The Institute works with its many stakeholders to identify gaps in research and adoption; develop strategies, networks, and funding to address those gaps; and ensure beneficial impact of those investments to agriculture, the environment, and society.

#### **About the Fishing Creek Soil and Water Conservation District**

The Fishing Creek Soil and Water Conservation District helps citizens of Halifax County conserve land, water, forests, wildlife, and other natural resources through education and best management practices.

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