

Peanut Blog

An ounce of information



Peanut winner changed his farm's dynamics

For his hands-on approach and ability to adjust to make the yields and the family farming business move forward, Riley Davis is the 2025 Peanut Efficiency Award recipient for the upper Southeast.

The pump on one of the pivots was down, and Riley Davis needed to water that corn. He scrambled to find another pump but wasn't having much luck.

"I think I can get my hands on one from somebody, but I don't think it's in the best shape," he said. "I'd like to fix it once and not have to fix it twice."

The pump being down was just another start to a new growing season for the Terrell County, Ga., farmer. Things happen, you fix them, and you move on. That's farming.

But Davis felt blessed that his planting had progressed early and without too many glitches. That was a good thing, because this year his whole farming dynamic changed.

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During a mid-May afternoon, Davis, 33, talked about an operation that is going through changes, but one he wanted to build.

Last year was a tough growing season for Georgia farmers, even for the ones who didn't suffer devastation from Hurricane Helene. Davis missed the hurricane, but weather played a challenge. Davis's 628 acres of irrigated peanuts averaged 5,600 pounds per acre. His 240 acres of non-irrigated averaged 2,500.

His father, Glenn, retired from the farming operation this year. And this year, Davis is reducing the farms working acres from 5,500 to 2,030, which now includes corn, peanuts and soybeans. The Davis farm will not grow cotton, which has been a major part of their rotation and livelihood for almost four decades.

"I don't see us getting completely out of cotton forever. We've had fields that historically make three-plus bales. It grows and grows well here, and I think we will grow cotton again," he said. "But we just couldn't make it work this year with the market the way it is."

Though Davis will farm less acres on his operation this year, that doesn't mean he'll work less acres. He and his father started a custom business to manage around 4,000 acres of row crops for a few farmers in the area.

Source: <https://www.farmprogress.com/peanut/peanut-winner-changed-his-farm-s-dynamics>