



Presenter

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What's salt got to do with it? Lessons from current coastal agricultural adaptation in Hyde County, NC

By the end of the century, sea levels are projected to rise along the coast of the southeastern United States by over a meter. While coastal counties in both North and South Carolina face massive changes by 2100, some locations along the coast already see the effects. One of the most vulnerable areas is Hyde County, North Carolina where the average land is less than a meter above current sea level. With agriculture covering 30 percent of the county, farmers depend on fertile soil to maintain their way of life. This research used a combination of remote sensing and in-depth interviews to identify at-risk soil salinization locations and current adaptation practices and barriers. Infrastructure projects, crop varieties, conservation easements, and stakeholder awareness are all critical components of protecting coastal agricultural lands. As the century progresses, more coastal working lands will need to implement similar adaptation strategies to address rising sea levels. This talk will focus on the lessons from agricultural fields on the trials and tribulations of adapting in a rapidly changing environment.