

## Do You Know....Terrell Jones?

This month, we are featuring a story about an ARS employee because we are as proud of the people that conduct, help perform, and support ARS research as we are about the research itself.



**ARS Biological Science Aid Terrell Jones.**

Biological Science Aid **Terrell Jones**, with the **ARS Crop Protection and Management Research Unit (CPMRU)** in Tifton, GA, is a native of Stewart County in southwestern Georgia and a third-generation farmer. Terrell, a senior at Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College in

Tifton, has worked with ARS Research Agronomist **Carroll Johnson** and Research Technician **Dan Evarts** for 3 years.

Terrell and his father, Bill Jones, farm 500 acres of cotton and 300 acres of peanuts. But, growing up, Terrell always pondered where the cotton went after it was ginned, and who actually ended up with the garments made from the cotton they grew. A few years ago, Terrell decided to start manufacturing his own clothing line with the cotton that he personally produced, with every step of the manufacturing process occurring in the USA—growing, ginning, spinning, weaving, and sewing. Initial discussions with insiders in the cotton industry advised Terrell to outsource the entire process to a foreign country. This was unacceptable to Terrell and largely contradicted his dream of producing a “Made in the USA” product.

Finding U.S. businesses to complete the process was daunting. Terrell persisted and his diligence resulted in his own custom clothing line—**Jones American Clothing**—which was launched summer 2011. He used a simple, logical philosophy: Why outsource manufacturing to another country when there are plenty of people in the USA to do it who desperately need the work? “I realize U.S. labor costs and resources are higher. However, there are still plenty of profitable

opportunities to manufacture basic items here,” says Terrell. He says he plans to keep Jones American Clothing a U.S. product—made from cotton that he has personally grown on his family’s farm.

CPMRU is located in the heart of commercial agriculture in the southeastern United States. CPMRU conducts basic and applied research in weed science, nematology, entomology, and general agronomics for cropping systems in the region. Terrell has an active role in experiments related to weed control in organic peanut, Vidalia® sweet onions, and vegetables, along with research on herbicide resistance in cotton. The array of ARS research projects, along with the diverse, free-thinking ARS staff, has encouraged Terrell to be equally creative.

“We are proud of Terrell and appreciate his stellar contributions to our research programs,” says Johnson. “While we may have encouraged him to ‘think outside the box’, he is also an inspiration for us.” He is scheduled to graduate in December 2011, but that’s just the beginning for this American farmer/businessman. He plans to expand his product line in 2012. The Georgia Farm Monitor recently interviewed Terrell; watch here: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9CD4k81A9E4>.

*Written by Terrell Jones and Carroll Johnson.*



**Terrell assisting with research on biodegradable mulches.**

*Please submit story ideas and national award items to Tara T. Weaver-Missick, [tara.weavermissick@ars.usda.gov](mailto:tara.weavermissick@ars.usda.gov) or call 301-504-1663.*