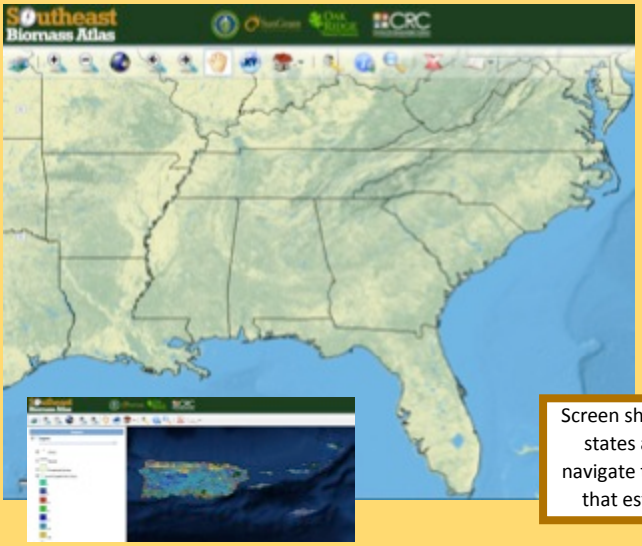
Regional Feedstock Partnership Highlights—Southeast Region Biomass Atlas

GIS Research in the Southeast: In addition to leading the Regional Feedstock Partnership's (RFP) Woody Crops Program, the Southeastern Sun Grant Center has worked with the US Department of Energy's Oak Ridge National Laboratory to develop a regionally-focused, web-based atlas for policy and planning to support the expansion of existing supplies and utilization of potential biomass for energy and biobased products. The Southeast Biomass Atlas, housed within the University of Tennessee Institute for Agriculture, includes a spatial, county-level inventory of dedicated energy crops with a scope of nine states and two territories. Energy crops displayed on the atlas include switchgrass, sorghum, willow and all other major bioenergy crops. Through capacities and locations of existing and proposed facilities utilizing biomass for energy, advanced biofuels and pellet production, this tool provides an estimate of current and future regional biomass demand. Environmental, socioeconomic, agricultural, and geographic and industry data, coupled with data from the Billion-ton Update and estimated biomass supply through 2022, provide quick access to biomass availability information in a format relevant to policymakers, industry leaders, landowners, and resource providers. The Biomass Atlas also includes access to other relevant Open Geospatial Consortium (OGC) layers.

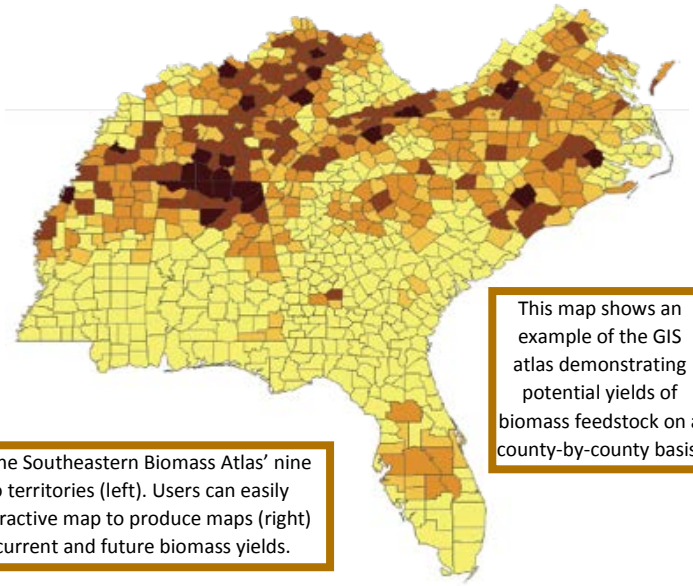
One unique characteristic of the atlas is the simple user interface with tools for spatial analysis and map creation using intentionally curated data layers. Users can query map features and extract and download selected map features including map layers and data tables. Additional information in the database is derived from publicly available data from scientific literature, government agency data, and other reports. Using feedback from regional users, the atlas shares specific answers to known questions on a regional, state and county level. Additionally, the system is designed for periodic updates as new regional data becomes available.

The Southeast Biomass Atlas is available at http://biomassatlas.org.

Southeast Biomass Atlas



Screen shots of the Southeastern Biomass Atlas' nine states and two territories (left). Users can easily navigate the interactive map to produce maps (right) that estimate current and future biomass yields.



This map shows an example of the GIS atlas demonstrating potential yields of biomass feedstock on a county-by-county basis.

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For more information visit http://www.sungrant.org or email sungrant@sdstate.edu