The University of Georgia Center for Agribusiness and Economic Development’s focus on Georgia’s agricultural industry
Agriculture, a driving force for local economies across Georgia, has long shaped the state’s history. The 2020 Ag Snapshots report on Georgia’s agricultural economy is based on the 2018 Georgia Farm Gate Value Report, an annual, county-level economic valuation for all food and fiber production in the state. Together these commodities directly represent a value of over $13.76 billion to the Georgia economy.

Beyond their farm gate values, these commodities form a foundation for our diverse agricultural supply chain, providing key resources to many sectors and adding value within the economy. Ag Snapshots provides the output and jobs supported by food and fiber production, which include the directly related industries along the supply chain – the total economic contribution – to highlight the importance of the agricultural economy to Georgia. In 2018, food and fiber production and related industries represented $76 billion in output to Georgia’s $1.07 trillion economy and more than 399,200 jobs in the economy.
## Top 10 Georgia Commodities by Value

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Commodity</th>
<th>Value</th>
<th>Percentage of Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BROILERS</td>
<td>$4.5 billion</td>
<td>32.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EGGS</td>
<td>$948.2 million</td>
<td>6.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COTTON</td>
<td>$792.7 million</td>
<td>5.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BEEF</td>
<td>$633.2 million</td>
<td>4.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TIMBER</td>
<td>$632.2 million</td>
<td>4.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PEANUTS</td>
<td>$624.6 million</td>
<td>4.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GREENHOUSE</td>
<td>$487.7 million</td>
<td>3.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DAIRY</td>
<td>$308.3 million</td>
<td>2.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BLUEBERRIES</td>
<td>$300.4 million</td>
<td>2.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CORN</td>
<td>$288.2 million</td>
<td>2.1%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Food and fiber production

plus directly related processing and indirect sectors

- **Contributes...**
  - **$76.0 billion** to the Georgia economy
  - **399,200 jobs**
2018 Georgia Farm Gate Value = $13.76 billion
2017 = $13.79 billion
In 2018, agriculture contributed $76.0 billion in output to Georgia’s $1.07 trillion economy.
2018 National Commodity Rankings*

1. **Georgia** #1
   - Broilers
   - Hatching Eggs
   - Peanuts

2. **Georgia** #2
   - Cotton
   - Pecans
   - Rye

3. **Georgia** #3
   - Peaches
   - Sweet Corn (Fresh Market)

4. **Georgia** #4
   - Bell Peppers (Fresh Market)
   - Pullets
   - Watermelon

5. **Georgia** #5
   - Blueberries
   - Cucumbers
   - Table Eggs
   - Tobacco

*Ranking in terms of total production. Data for some states not available due to nondisclosure, which could affect Georgia rankings.

Source: National Agricultural Statistics Service
## Top 10 Industries Affected in terms of employment

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Industry</th>
<th>Employment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Landscape and horticultural services</td>
<td>53,350</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All other crop farming</td>
<td>44,637</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poultry processing</td>
<td>33,199</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Support activities for agriculture and forestry</td>
<td>14,793</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Forestry, forest products and timber tract production</td>
<td>10,213</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Truck transportation</td>
<td>9,729</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Real estate</td>
<td>8,512</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Commercial logging</td>
<td>7,515</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poultry and egg production</td>
<td>6,948</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vegetable and melon farming</td>
<td>6,745</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The economic contribution of food and fiber plus related industries adds up to over $7,100 per person in Georgia.

*Source: Based on calculations using the U.S. Census Bureau Quick Facts, 2018 Georgia Population Estimates*
POULTRY & EGGS

2018 Georgia Farm Gate Value = $5.71 billion
2017 = $5.47 billion

Contributes...

$24.6 billion to the Georgia economy
91,400 jobs
3 out of 4 Georgia counties are involved in poultry and egg production.

Georgia has led the nation in broiler production for decades.
ROW & FORAGE CROPS

2018 Georgia Farm Gate Value = $2.23 billion
2017 = $2.55 billion

Contributes...

$11.4 billion to the Georgia economy
81,800 jobs

> $30,000,000
$10,000,000 - $29,999,999
$3,000,000 - $9,999,999
$1,000,000 - $2,999,999
$0 - $999,999
Cotton ranks No. 1 in production value among row and forage crops in Georgia and No. 2 in the nation.

In 2018, Georgia produced more than one half of the nation’s peanuts.

Source: United States Department of Agriculture, National Agricultural Statistics Service, Quick Stats, Peanut Production Measured in lbs. 2018
LIVESTOCK & AQUACULTURE

2018 Georgia Farm Gate Value = $1.41 billion
2017 = $1.43 billion

Contributes...

$9.3 billion

37,000 jobs
Raising, boarding, training and breeding horses makes up 17.6% of this group.

Beef and dairy ranked among the top 10 commodities in the 2018 Georgia Farm Gate Value Report.

This category includes commodities ranging from catfish to honeybees.
VEGETABLES

2018 Georgia Farm Gate Value = $1.13 billion
2017 = $1.15 billion

Contributes...

$2.6 billion to the Georgia economy
13,900 jobs
Vegetables are the No. 4 ranked commodity group in the 2018 Georgia Farm Gate Value Report.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Vegetable</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sweet Corn</td>
<td>13.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Onions</td>
<td>13.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bell Peppers</td>
<td>11.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Watermelon</td>
<td>11.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cucumbers</td>
<td>7.4%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The number of different vegetable types measured in the 2018 Georgia Farm Gate Value Report is 33.
ORNAMENTAL HORTICULTURE

2018 Georgia Farm Gate Value = $888.72 million
2017 = $846.47 million

Contributes...

$8.0 billion to the Georgia economy
83,000 jobs
Ornamental horticulture is ranked the No. 5 commodity group in the 2018 Georgia Farm Gate Value Report.

Both greenhouses and container nurseries ranked among the top 20 in farm gate value among agricultural commodities in 2018.
FORESTRY & PRODUCTS

2018 Georgia Farm Gate Value = $788.37 million
2017 = $800.19 million

> $10,000,000
$5,000,000 - $9,999,999
$3,000,000 - $4,999,999
$1,000,000 - $2,999,999
$0 - $999,999

Contributes...

$19.0 billion
to the Georgia economy
81,800 jobs
Georgia is consistently ranked the top forestry state in the nation.

Timber production was the No. 5 ranked individual commodity in the 2018 Georgia Farm Gate Value Report.

Source: www.gfagrow.org
FRUITS & NUTS

2018 Georgia Farm Gate Value = $614.63 million
2017 = $704.79 million

Contributes...

$1.9 billion
to the Georgia economy

13,000 jobs
Georgia’s top three: Blueberries, pecans, and peaches are also top-ranked crops nationally.
AGRITOURISM & OTHER

2018 Georgia Farm Gate Value = $989.36 million
2017 = $849.07 million

> $12,000,000
$8,000,000 - $11,999,999
$2,000,000 - $7,999,999
$500,000 - $1,999,999
$0 - $499,999
Millions of residents and nonresidents enjoy outdoor activities such as hunting, fishing and wildlife-watching.

Agriculture- and nature-based activities such as trail riding, camping and corn mazes make Georgia a popular destination for tourists.
GEORGIA FARMS BY SIZE

1 to 9 acres: 10.6% (4,516)
10 to 49 acres: 31.7% (13,444)
50 to 179 acres: 31.8% (13,479)
180 to 499 acres: 15.3% (6,514)
500 to 999 acres: 5.3% (2,233)
1,000 acres or more: 3.5% (1,498)
2,000 acres or more: 1.8% (755)

Source: USDA/NASS, 2017 Census of Agriculture
Number of Farms statewide • 42,439
Land in Farms • 9,953,730 acres
Average farm size • 235 acres
Harvested cropland • 3,628,707 acres
Market value of agricultural products sold • $9.57 billion
Total farm production expenses • $7.1 billion

FARMERS, PRIMARY PRODUCER
(formerly called Principal Operator)
Worked 200+ days off farm • 37.3% (15,838)
Average age of primary producer • 59.8 years
Female • 22.9% (9,717)
Black • 4.4% (1,878)
Hispanic, Latino or Spanish origin • 1.2% (525)
GEORGIA FARMS BY SALES VALUE

Visit our website to access this publication and to learn more about the role of agriculture in Georgia counties:
caed.uga.edu/publications/ag-snapshots.html

The complete 2018 farm gate report and previously published reports are available at caed.uga.edu/publications/farm-gate.html
Ag Snapshots are a brief focus on Georgia’s agricultural industry and are based on the Georgia Farm Gate Value Report from the previous year. Publication date and data presented may differ.

To learn more about Georgia agribusiness, contact:
The Center for Agribusiness and Economic Development

Visit our website at: www.caed.uga.edu