

The Center for Agribusiness and Economic Development of the University of Georgia's College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences has updated its estimate of the weather-related farm losses in Georgia for 1998. The new estimate, for September 1, is \$767 million statewide, up from the early July estimate of \$405 million. The continuation of hot dry weather through July did damage that could not be undone by the near average rainfall in August. In fact, for some crops, late rainfall has caused problems with pest and disease outbreaks. Even now, army worms are causing the economic and agronomic damages to rise by the day.

This represents about 11 percent of the total farmgate value of Georgia agricultural production. Further, the economic losses for crop production (excluding cattle and dairy) of \$700 million represents 25 percent of the total farmgate value of Georgia's annual crop production. A loss of this magnitude means that on average statewide, profit from crop production will be zero or negative.

These data are compiled using information provided by UGA County Agents. Losses are based on reports of lost yield on impacted acres, current market prices, and adjustments for additional production costs incurred above those in a typical year.

Regionally, the major impacts have been felt in an 100 mile wide band that stretches from near Blakely in Southwest Georgia northeastward to Waynesboro, just south of Augusta. The four counties worst hit are: Brooks (\$20.8 million), Burke (\$32.4 million), Crisp (\$20.0 million), and Mitchell (\$29.1 million).

Dollar Losses by Commodity Group

cattle	\$ 40 million
corn	\$ 78 million
cotton	\$314 million
dairy	\$ 20 million
hay/pasture	\$ 82 million
peanuts	\$ 59 million
pecans	\$ 64 million
soybeans	\$ 29 million
tobacco	\$ 44 million
vegetables	\$ 12 million
watermelons	\$ 16 million
fruit,others	\$ 9 million
Total:	\$767 million

Source: Center for Agribusiness and Economic Development, College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences, The University of Georgia, September 1, 1998.