The Economic Importance
of Food and Fiber

A Spotlight on Colquitt County, Georgia

Prepared for
Colquitt County Cooperative Extension
May, 2008

by:
The Center for Agribusiness
and Economic Development

College of Agricultural
and Environmental Sciences

The University of Georgia
Total Population
Colquitt County

Primary data sources: U.S. Census Bureau, decennial censuses & estimate; OPB (State Office of Planning & Budget); CAED (Center for Agribusiness & Economic Development).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Loss</th>
<th>0 – 7.2%</th>
<th>7.2 – 16.6%</th>
<th>16.6 – 39.0%</th>
<th>39.0 – 61.5%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Avg. GA
County = 9.9%
GA = 16.6%
US = 7.2%

Colquitt Co. 6.6%

Primary data source: U.S. Census Bureau (3/08)
Percent of Land in Cropland & Forestland: 2002

GA Total = 78.5%
GA Avg. Co. = 77.3%
Metro Avg. Co. = 70.7%
Nonmetro Avg. Co. = 82.6%

Primary data sources:
U.S. Census of Agriculture, 2002
Forest Statistics for Georgia, 1997
Components of 2007 Property Tax Gross Digest
Colquitt County

Residential 42.2%

Ag-Preferential-Environ-Conserv 15.6%

Commercial 20.2%

Motor Vehicle 10.8%

Industrial 4.2%

Public Utility 3.9%

Mobile Home 2.4%

Heavy Equipment 0.04%

Timber * 0.7%

40% Assessment Value of Property
Gross Digest = $819,963,223
COUNTY Homestead & Property Exemptions = $67,396,358
Net M&O Digest = $752,566,865
Value of exempt property = $95,559,382

* Timber taxed at 100% based on previous year sales

Primary data source: GA Dept. of Revenue
## County Property Tax Digest Comparisons: 2007

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>County</th>
<th>% Residential</th>
<th>% Agricultural</th>
<th>% Commercial</th>
<th>% Industrial</th>
<th>% Motor Vehicle</th>
<th>% Other</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>COLQUITT</td>
<td>42.2</td>
<td>15.6</td>
<td>20.2</td>
<td>4.2</td>
<td>10.8</td>
<td>7.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BROOKS</td>
<td>27.4</td>
<td>44.5</td>
<td>6.3</td>
<td>7.8</td>
<td>7.6</td>
<td>6.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COOK</td>
<td>32.1</td>
<td>27.4</td>
<td>20.1</td>
<td>6.2</td>
<td>8.2</td>
<td>5.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MITCHELL</td>
<td>28.4</td>
<td>35.7</td>
<td>14.2</td>
<td>8.6</td>
<td>6.9</td>
<td>6.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>THOMAS</td>
<td>37.1</td>
<td>24.9</td>
<td>20.5</td>
<td>5.2</td>
<td>8.2</td>
<td>4.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TIFT</td>
<td>37.1</td>
<td>11.8</td>
<td>24.0</td>
<td>13.0</td>
<td>9.6</td>
<td>4.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WORTH</td>
<td>33.2</td>
<td>37.6</td>
<td>9.5</td>
<td>2.7</td>
<td>9.7</td>
<td>7.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Avg. GA Co.</td>
<td>41.9</td>
<td>22.5</td>
<td>12.8</td>
<td>7.6</td>
<td>7.4</td>
<td>7.7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Primary data source: GA Dept. of Revenue
Revenue : Expenditure Ratios
$ of Revenue for Each $ of Expenditure

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Cherokee</th>
<th>Jones</th>
<th>Carroll</th>
<th>Oconee</th>
<th>US Avg</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Farm/Forest</td>
<td>$1.01</td>
<td>$1.18</td>
<td></td>
<td>$1.17</td>
<td>$2.70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Commercial</td>
<td>$1.17</td>
<td>$1.25</td>
<td>$1.93</td>
<td></td>
<td>$3.45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Residential</td>
<td>$0.64</td>
<td>$0.87</td>
<td>$0.83</td>
<td>$0.90</td>
<td>$0.87</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Agriculture in Georgia

- Georgia's 2007 Farm Gate Value was $11.6 billion. Adding the value of landscape services increased the total agricultural production value to $13.6 billion.

- Total food and fiber production and directly related businesses account for a $59 billion output impact on Georgia's $735 billion economy.
Production Agriculture: 2007

Georgia Total Agricultural Production Value
$13.6 Billion

- Landscape services: 15.3%
- Livestock & Aquaculture: 9.8%
- Row & Forage Crops: 12.3%
- Poultry & Eggs: 39.8%
- Ornamental Horticulture: 5.6%
- Vegetables: 6.6%
- Other Income: 4.5%
- Fruits & Nuts: 1.8%
- Forestry & Products: 4.4%

2007 Farm Gate Value by County in Millions of Dollars:
- $0 - $20
- $20 - $45
- $45 - $80
- $80 - $200
- $200 - $390
2007 Farm Gate Value in Colquitt Co. was $389.2 million. Adding $984 thousand of landscape services increased the total agricultural production value to $390.2 million.

The highest value commodity group was poultry/eggs, representing 46.8% of the total agricultural production value.
Colquitt County
2007 Agricultural Production Value

2007 Agricultural Production
- Poultry-Eggs: 46.8%
- Row-Forage crops: 12.8%
- Vegetables: 27.7%
- Livestock-Aquaculture: 4.2%
- Orn Hort: 1.9%
- Fruits-Nuts: 0.5%
- Other: 4.5%
- Landscape services: 0.3%

2007 Top Farm Gate Commodities
- Broilers: 42.7%
- Cucumbers: 3.5%
- Bell Peppers: 4.9%
- Greens: 4.1%
- Cabbage: 6.4%
- Cotton: 7.5%
- Layers: 3.0%
- Peanuts: 2.6%
- Cantaloupe: 1.4%
- Beef Cows: 1.5%
- Rest of commodities: 22.5%

Total AG Value = $390.2 million
Trends in Colquitt County:
Number of Farms & Average Farm Size

Number of Farms, Colquitt County

Average Farm Size

Source: 1945-2002 (quinquennial) Censuses of Agriculture
Trends in Colquitt County: Land in Farms & Farms by Size

Land in Farms Colquitt County

Percent of Farms by Size, 2002

Source: 1945-2002 (quinquennial) Censuses of Agriculture
Trends in Colquitt County
Number of Farms by Commodity

Source: 1987-2002 (quinquennial) Censuses of Agriculture
How Do We Compare?

Georgia, Colquitt and Surrounding Counties
Farm Gate Value

Sources: 2002 Census of Agriculture and 2007 Farm Gate Value Report
The Center for Agribusiness and Economic Development performed an analysis of the county’s economy, focusing on the role of food and fiber.

How much of the county’s total current economic output comes from food and fiber production and directly related processing? (A Snapshot of the Economy)

What is the total (direct and indirect) Impact of food and fiber production and directly related industries?
## Colquitt County Economy

### Agriculture OUTPUT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Output in $ Millions</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Agriculture</td>
<td>390.215</td>
<td>17.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Construction</td>
<td>88.770</td>
<td>3.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manufacturing</td>
<td>785.113</td>
<td>34.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trans-Utilities-Info</td>
<td>99.435</td>
<td>4.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trade</td>
<td>216.311</td>
<td>9.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Finance-Ins-RE</td>
<td>110.945</td>
<td>4.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Services</td>
<td>260.478</td>
<td>11.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Govt &amp; Other</td>
<td>296.885</td>
<td>13.2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total County Economic Output** = $2.248 billion
### Colquitt County Economy

**Agriculture + Directly Related Businesses OUTPUT**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Output in $ Millions</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Agriculture + Direct</td>
<td>667.426</td>
<td>29.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Construction</td>
<td>88.770</td>
<td>3.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manufacturing</td>
<td>507.903</td>
<td>22.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trans-Utilities-Info</td>
<td>99.435</td>
<td>4.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trade</td>
<td>216.311</td>
<td>9.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Finance-Ins-Real Est</td>
<td>110.945</td>
<td>4.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Services</td>
<td>260.478</td>
<td>11.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Govt &amp; Other</td>
<td>296.885</td>
<td>13.2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total County Economic Output = $2.248 billion**
Colquitt County Employment
Total Jobs = 22,325

AG + Directly Related
5,951
26.7%

Construction
931
4.2%

Manufacturing
2,539
11.4%

Trans-Utilities-Info
1,046
4.7%

Trade
2,759
12.4%

Finance-Ins-Real Est
755
3.4%

State & Federal Government
1,393
6.2%

Public Education
2,476
11.1%

Other Services
2,799
12.5%

Professional Services
1,676
7.5%

Primary data source: Center for Agribusiness & Economic Development, UGA
An Economic Snapshot of Colquitt County

- How much of Colquitt County’s total economic output comes from food and fiber production?

- AG value alone of $390.2 million consisting of Farm Gate Value and landscape services comprises 17.4% of the county’s economy.

- AG plus directly related businesses (ex. poultry processing, sawmills, etc.) comprise 29.7% of the county’s economy.
What is the Impact?

- What is the total (direct and indirect) impact of food and fiber production and directly related industries?

- This scenario illustrates how other industries are affected by the presence of food and fiber in the county. The indirect impacts measure output created due to food and fiber production and processing in the county.
What Impact Means: A Brief Explanation

- The *impact* numbers capture the ripple effects that food and fiber create in the county’s economy. Many other sectors rely in part on the existence of food and fiber for sales.
## Colquitt County
### Agriculture IMPACT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Direct $ Millions</th>
<th>Indirect $ Millions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Agriculture</td>
<td>390.215</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Construction</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0.7776</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manufacturing</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>10.125</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trans-Utilities-Info</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>14.704</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trade</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>25.914</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Finance-Ins-RE</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>11.457</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Services</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>29.646</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Government</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>19.554</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>390.215</strong></td>
<td><strong>112.176</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total Impact of Production AG = $502.4 million
22.4% of total economy
## Colquitt County

Production Agriculture + Directly Related Businesses *IMPACT*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Direct $ Millions</th>
<th>Indirect $ Millions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Agriculture + Direct</td>
<td>667.426</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Construction</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1.390</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manufacturing</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>11.871</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trans-Utilities-Info</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>28.823</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trade</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>39.031</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Finance-Ins-RE</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>17.539</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Services</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>46.920</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Government</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>26.069</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>667.426</strong></td>
<td><strong>171.642</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total Impact of AG + Directly Related = $839.1 million**

**37.3% of total economy**
### Colquitt County
Production Agriculture + Directly Related Industries Employment Impact

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Industry</th>
<th>Direct</th>
<th>Indirect</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Agriculture + Direct</td>
<td>5,951</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Construction</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manufacturing</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>62</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trans-Utilities-Info</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>346</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trade</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>467</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Finance-Ins-Real Estate</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>105</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Services</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>782</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Government</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total Impact of AG + Directly Related Employment = 7,757 Jobs
34.7% of total employment
What These Numbers Mean: A Brief Explanation

- **Direct** impact is $667.4 million. This includes food and fiber production, processing and directly related manufacturing.

- **Indirect** impact from the Trade sector is $39 million. This captures the effects of farmers (direct source) buying supplies (seed, fertilizer, work boots) from local stores. These stores must increase their output to meet farmer demand.
What These Numbers Mean: A Brief Explanation (continued)

- As local stores increase their output, they may demand more stock from local wholesalers (also in the Trade sector). Local wholesalers demand more from local manufacturers, thus increasing activity in the Manufacturing sector.

- Local stores also hire employees to assist farmers. They take home wages and buy groceries at the local store which increases demand there.
Colquitt County Food and Fiber Impact Conclusions

- The total impact of food and fiber production, processing and direct manufacturing is $839 million.
- The total county output is $2.2 billion.
- Thus, food and fiber (directly and indirectly) account for 37.3% of the total county output.
Food and Fiber Production and Directly Related Manufacturing *IMPACT* as % of Total Output

Colquitt Co. 37.3%
Contact Information

Prepared by:
Sue Boatright and Archie Flanders
Center for Agribusiness & Economic Development

"Adding Value to Georgia's Agricultural Economy Through Research and Extension"

To learn more about your county, go to:
http://www.caed.uga.edu/
...click on "Georgia Statistics System"

Special County Area Report
#08-08A
May, 2008