

The Economic Importance of Food and Fiber

The background of the slide is a stylized, colorful illustration of a farm scene. It features a large red barn with a white roof, several silos, and a wooden fence in the foreground. The scene is set against a backdrop of green fields and trees, all rendered in a bold, graphic style with thick black outlines and a vibrant color palette.

A Spotlight on Thomas County, Georgia

Prepared for
Thomas County Cooperative Extension
March, 2009

by:

The Center for Agribusiness
and Economic Development

College of Agricultural
and Environmental Sciences

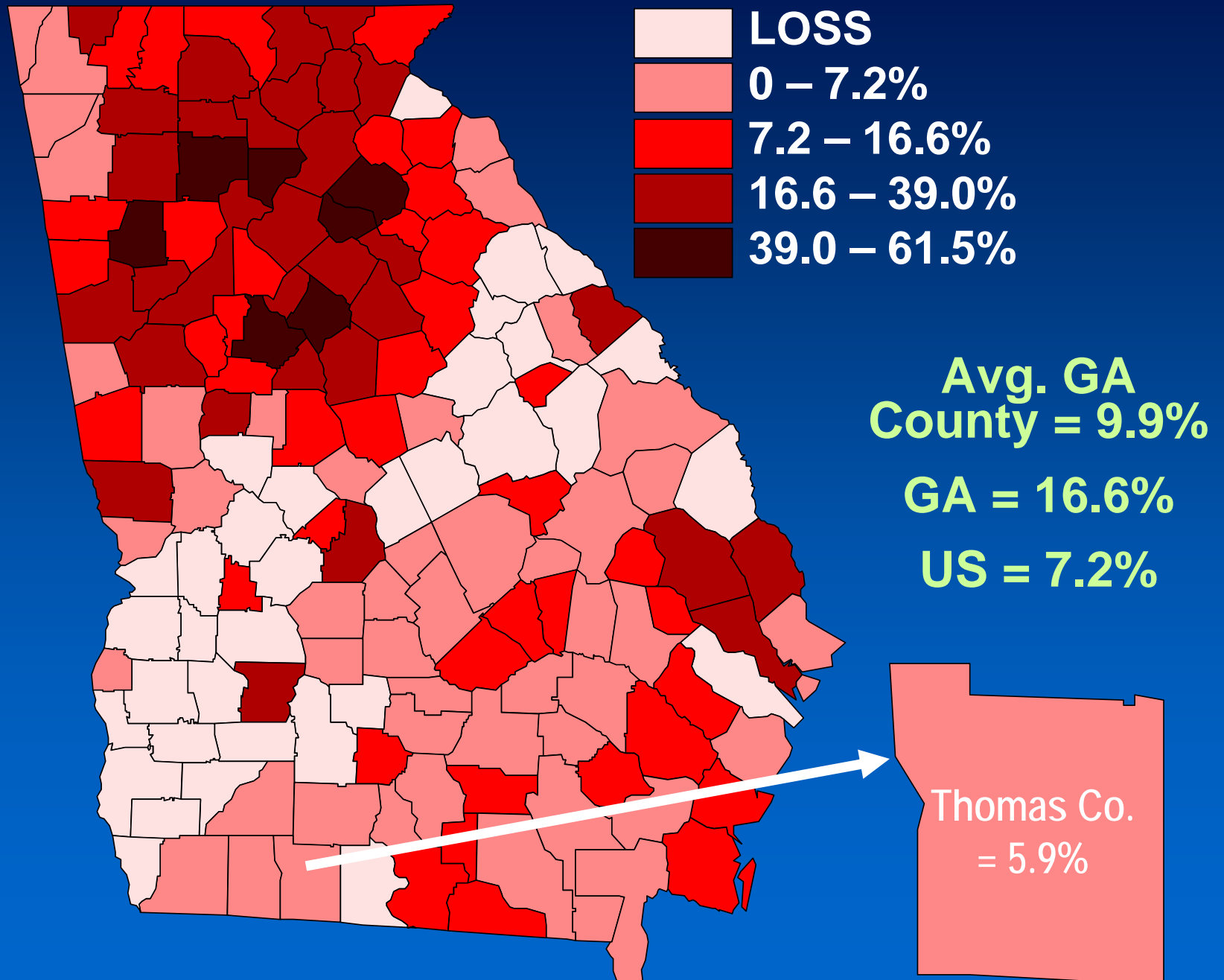
The University of Georgia

Total Population Thomas County



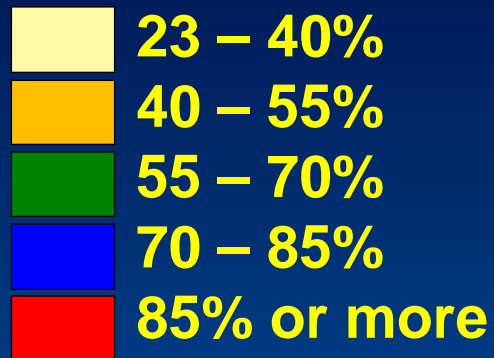
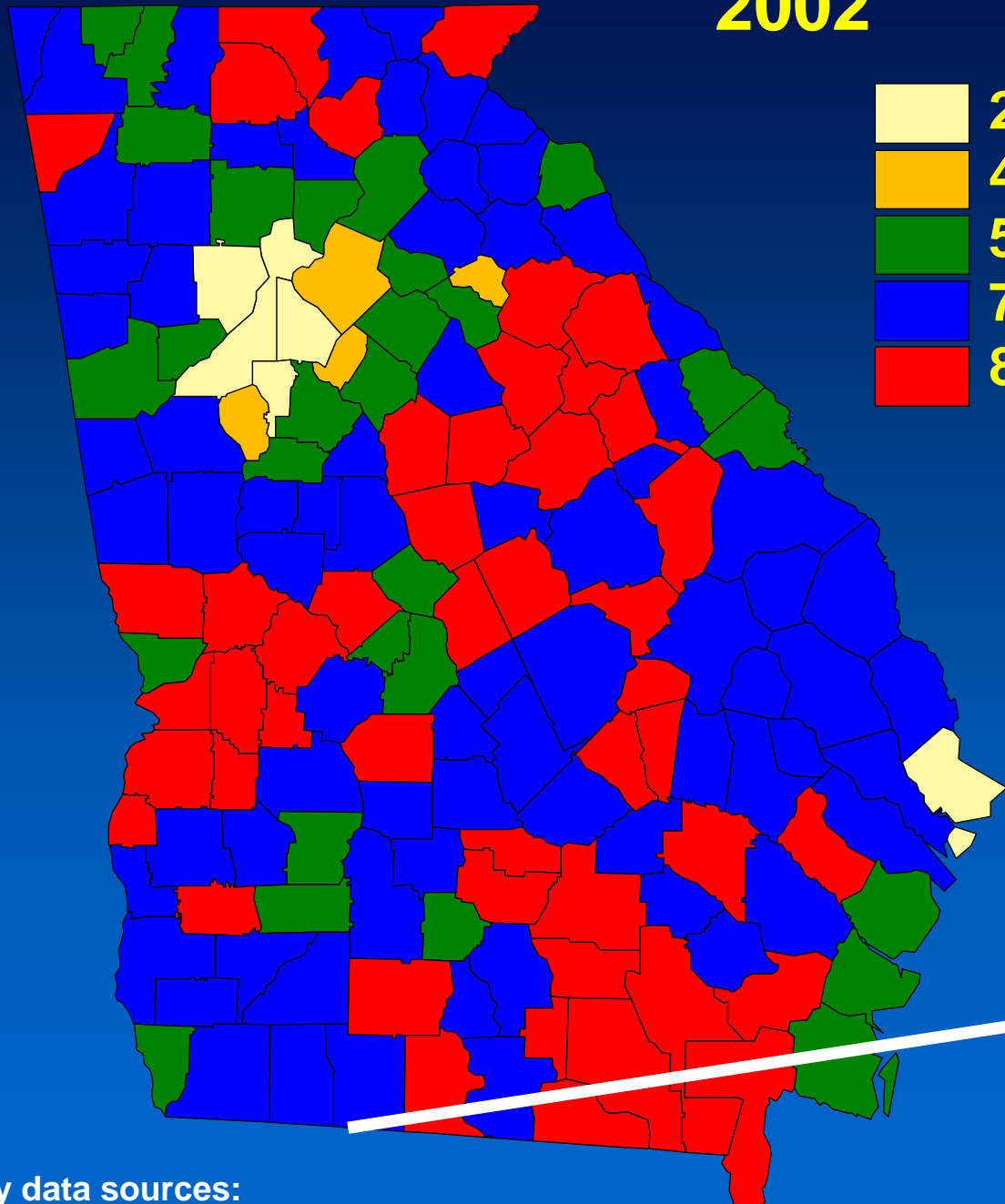
Primary data sources: U.S. Census Bureau, decennial censuses & estimate; OPB (State Office of Planning and Budget) CAED (Center for Agribusiness & Economic Development).

Population Change: 2000-2007



Primary data source: U.S. Census Bureau (3/08)

Percent of Land in Cropland & Forestland: 2002

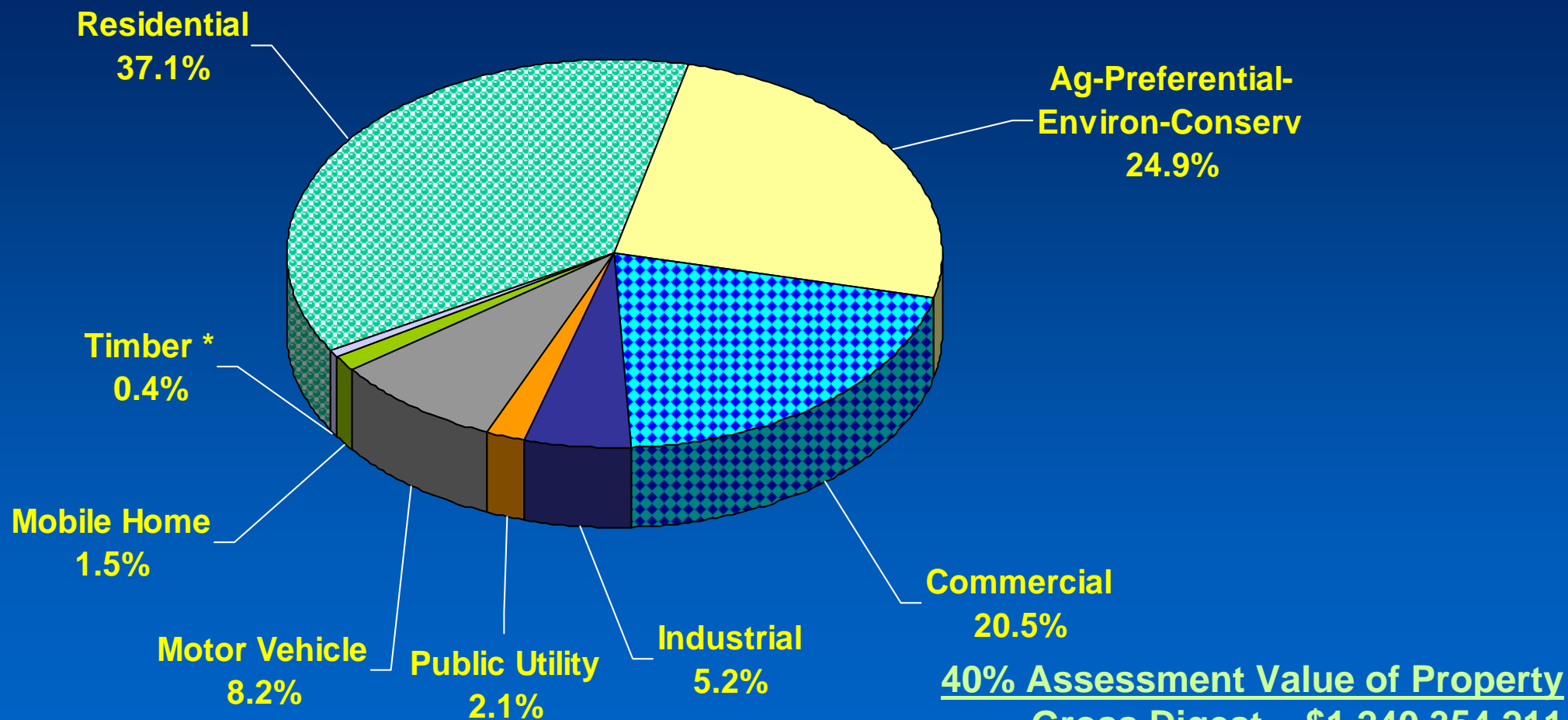


GA Total = 78.5%
GA Avg. Co. = 77.3%
Metro Avg. Co. = 70.7%
Nonmetro Avg. Co. = 82.6%

Thomas Co.
71.3%

Primary data sources:
U.S. Census of Agriculture, 2002
Forest Statistics for Georgia, 1997

Components of 2007 Property Tax Gross Digest Thomas County



40% Assessment Value of Property

Gross Digest = \$1,240,354,211

Homestead & Property Exemptions = \$104,856,648

Net M&O Digest = \$1,135,497,563

Value of exempt property = \$163,484,558

Primary data source:
GA Dept. of Revenue

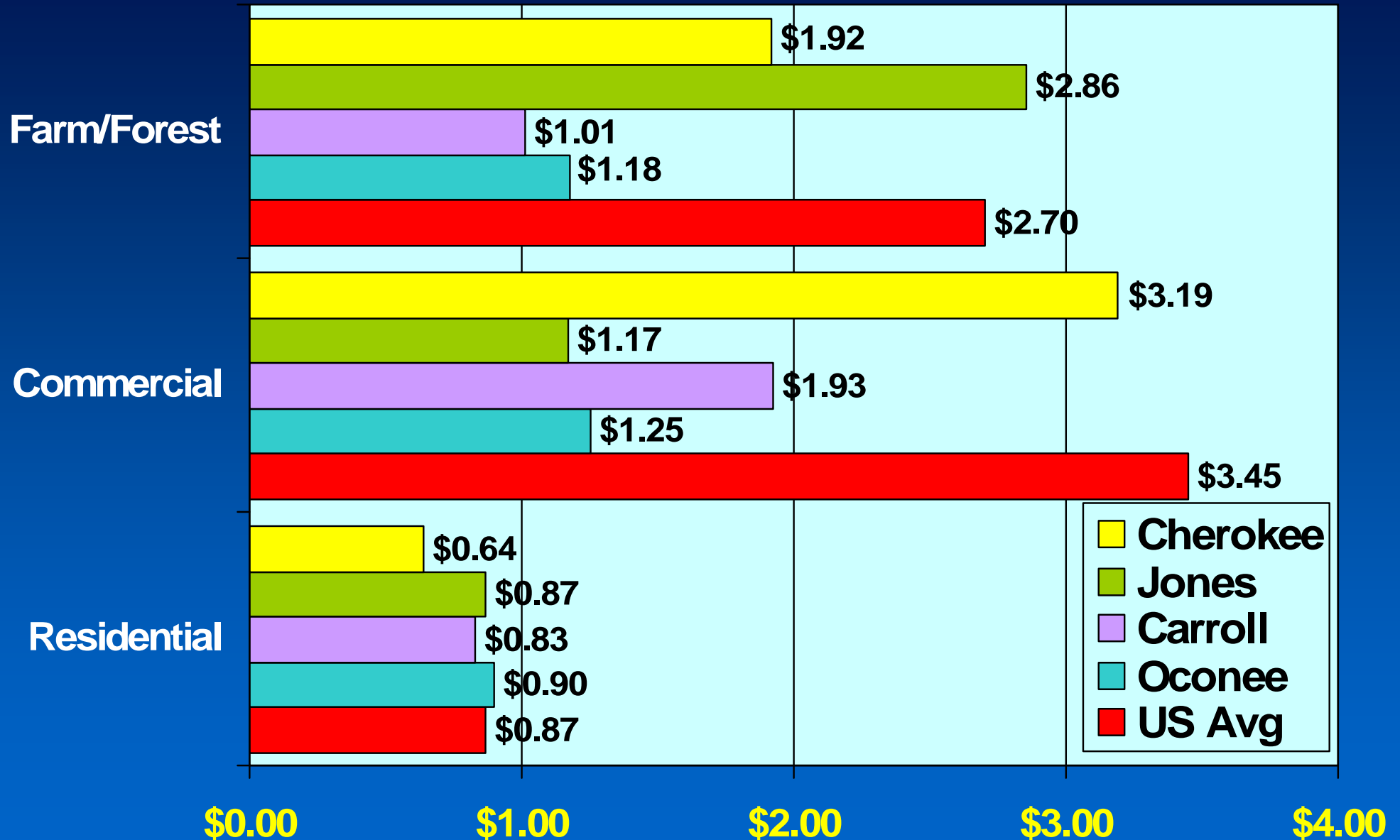
* Timber taxed at 100% based on previous year sales

County Property Tax Digest Comparisons: 2007

County	% Residential	% Agricultural	% Commercial	% Industrial	% Utility	% Motor Veh	% Mobile Home	% Timber
THOMAS	37.1	24.9	20.5	5.2	2.1	8.2	1.5	0.45
BROOKS	27.4	44.5	6.3	7.8	3.2	7.6	2.3	1.04
COLQUITT	42.2	15.6	20.2	4.2	3.9	10.8	2.4	0.69
COOK	32.1	27.4	20.1	6.2	3.6	8.2	1.7	0.64
DECATUR	37.4	18.8	15.4	14.6	4.0	7.7	1.3	0.78
GRADY	43.4	28.5	10.3	5.6	2.0	8.1	1.5	0.58
MITCHELL	28.4	35.7	14.2	8.6	4.3	6.9	1.2	0.65
Avg. GA Co.	42.4	23.8	12.7	7.0	5.0	7.2	1.1	.9

Revenue : Expenditure Ratios

\$ of Revenue for Each \$ of Expenditure

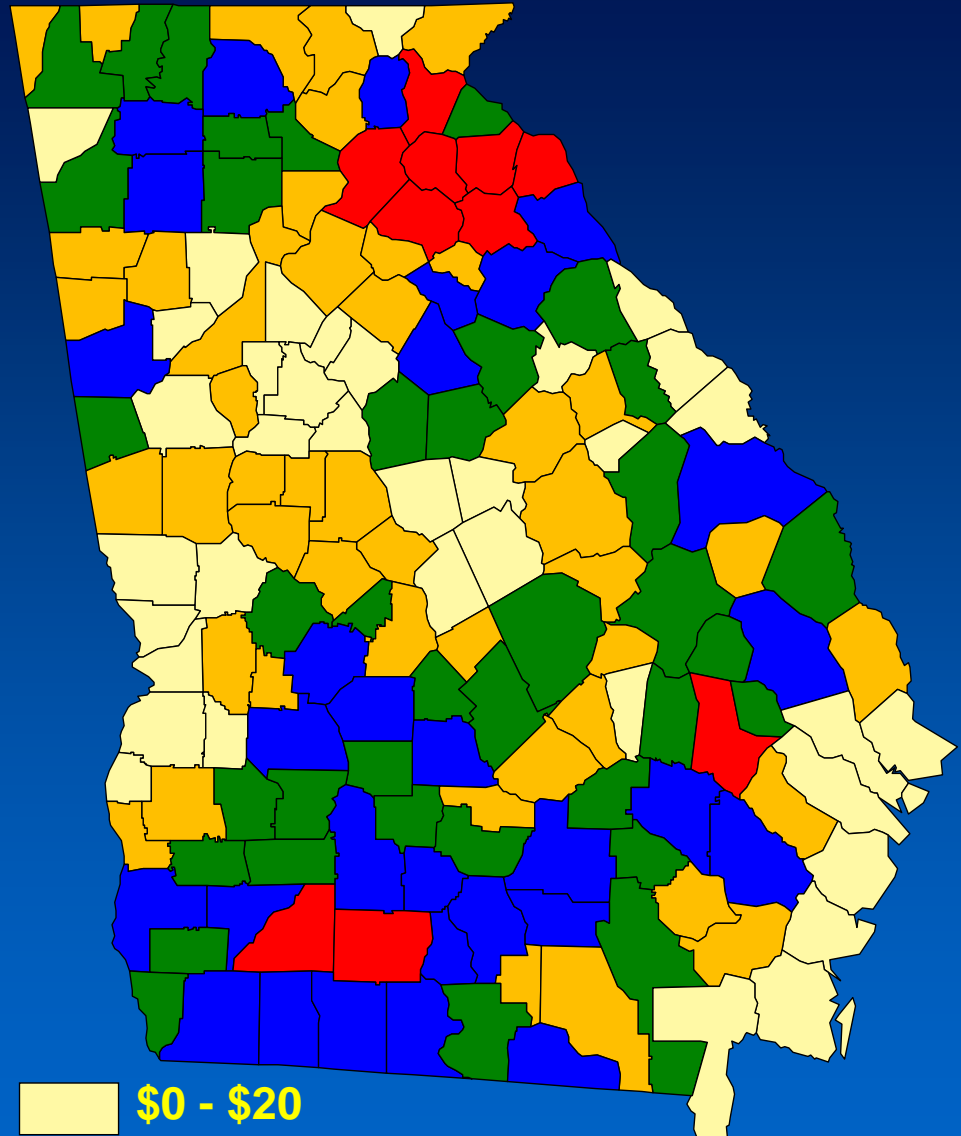
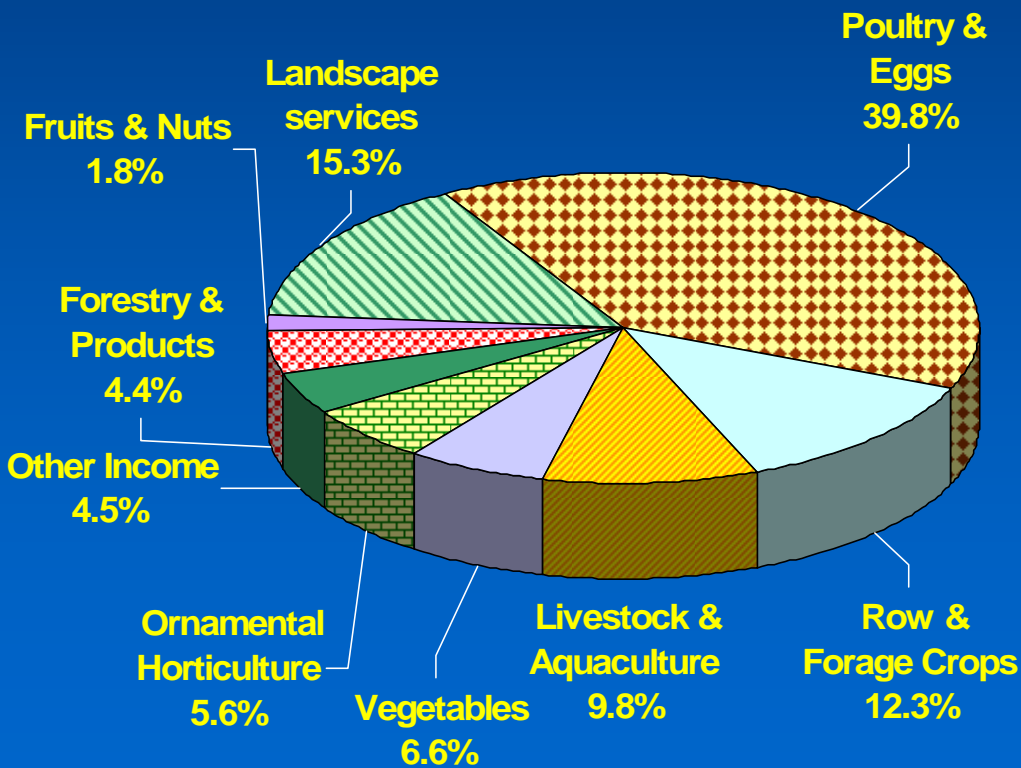


Agriculture in Georgia

- 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



2007 Farm Gate
Value by County
in Millions of Dollars

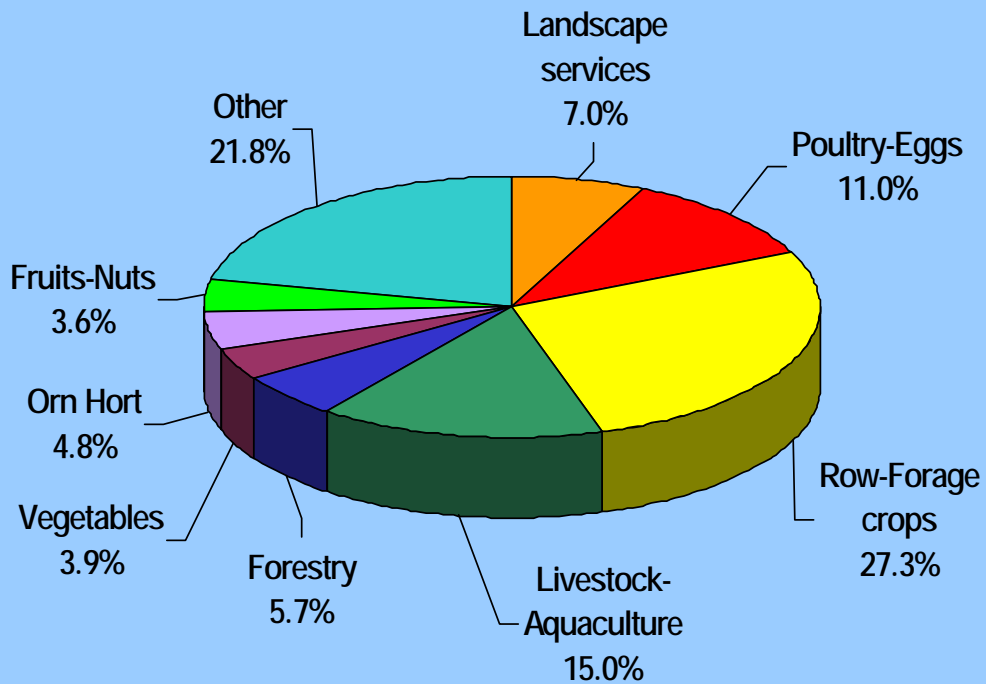
What We Know about Thomas County

- 2007 Farm Gate Value in Thomas Co. was \$105.8 million. Adding \$7.9 million of landscape services increased the total agricultural production value to \$113.7 million.
- The highest value commodity group was row-forage crops, representing 27.3% of the total agricultural production value.

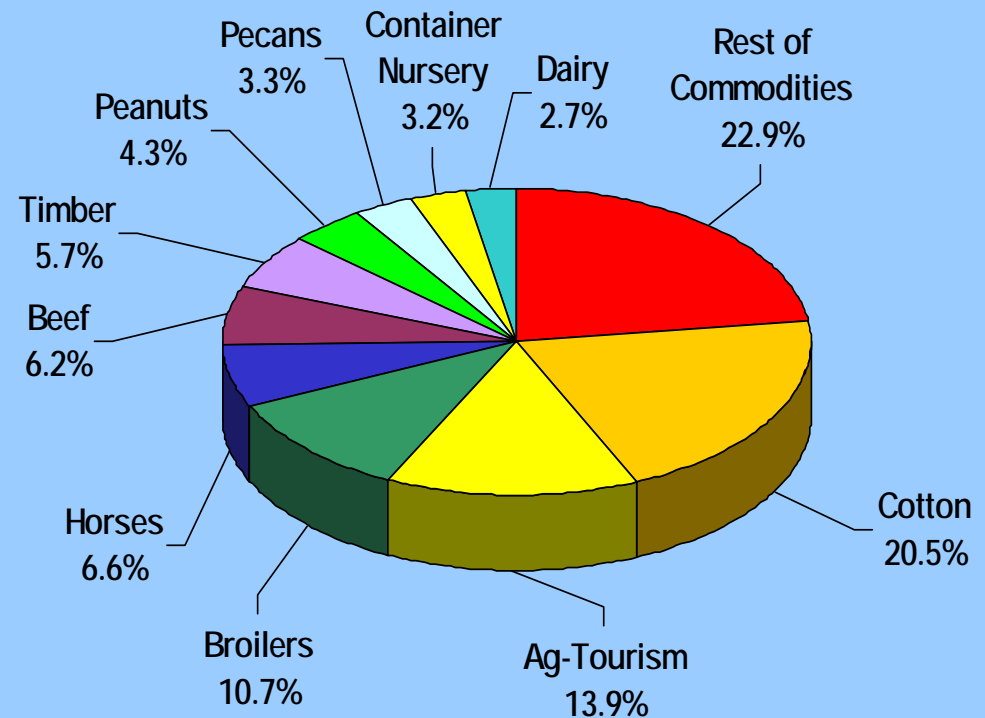
Thomas County

2007 Agricultural Production Value

2007 Agricultural Production



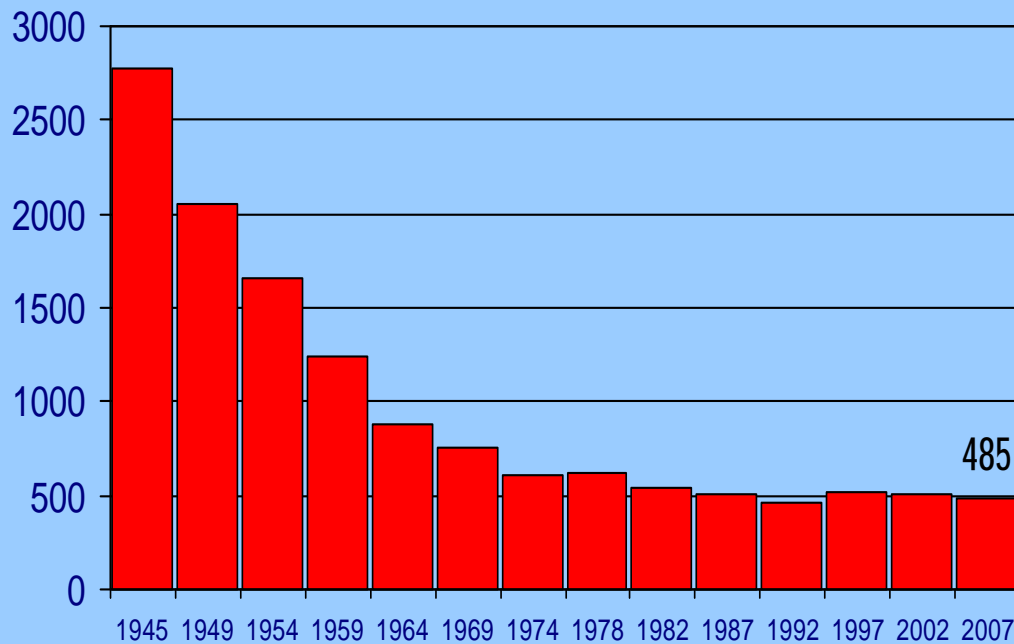
2007 Top Farm Gate Commodities



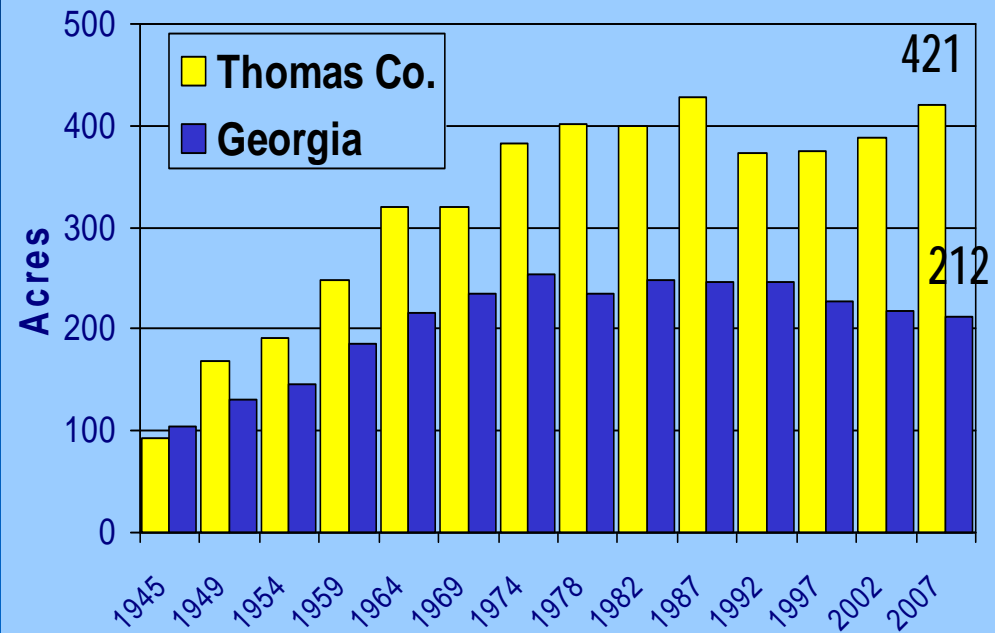
Total AG Value = \$113.7 million

Trends in Thomas County: Number of Farms & Average Farm Size

Number of Farms, Thomas County

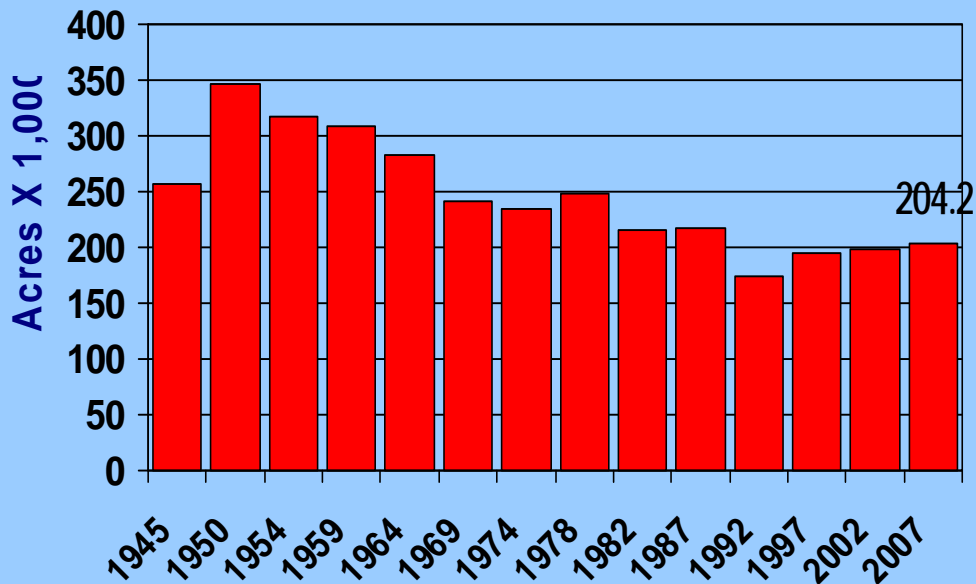


Average Farm Size

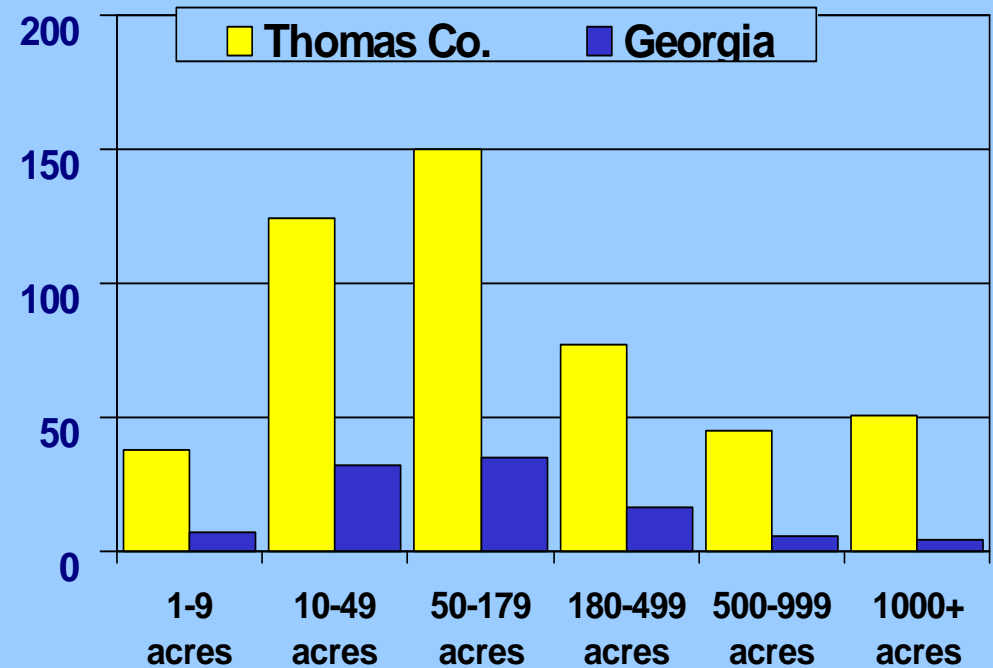


Trends in Thomas County: Land in Farms & Farms by Size

Land in Farms
Thomas County

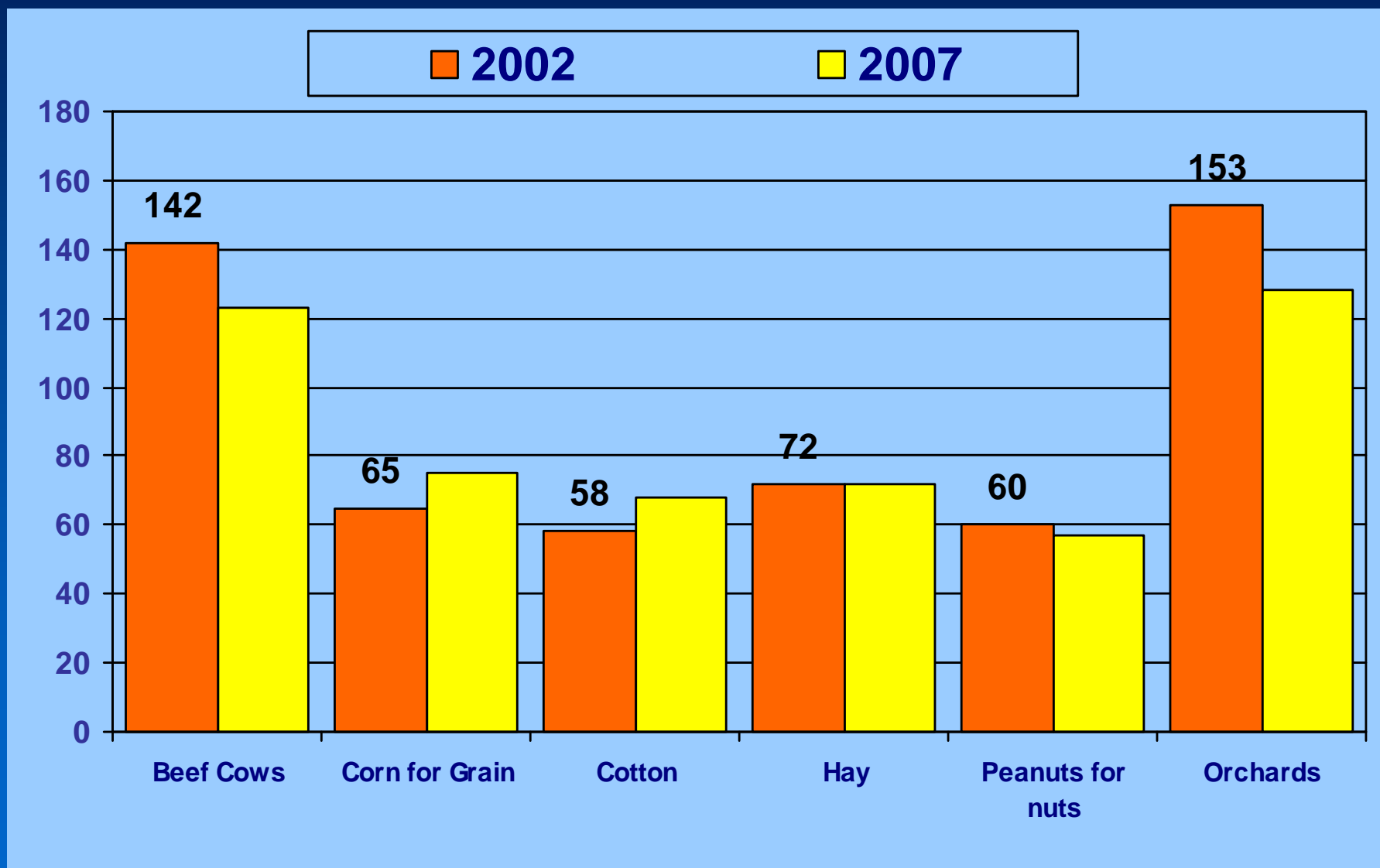


Percent of Farms by Size, 2007



Trends in Thomas County

Number of Farms by Commodity

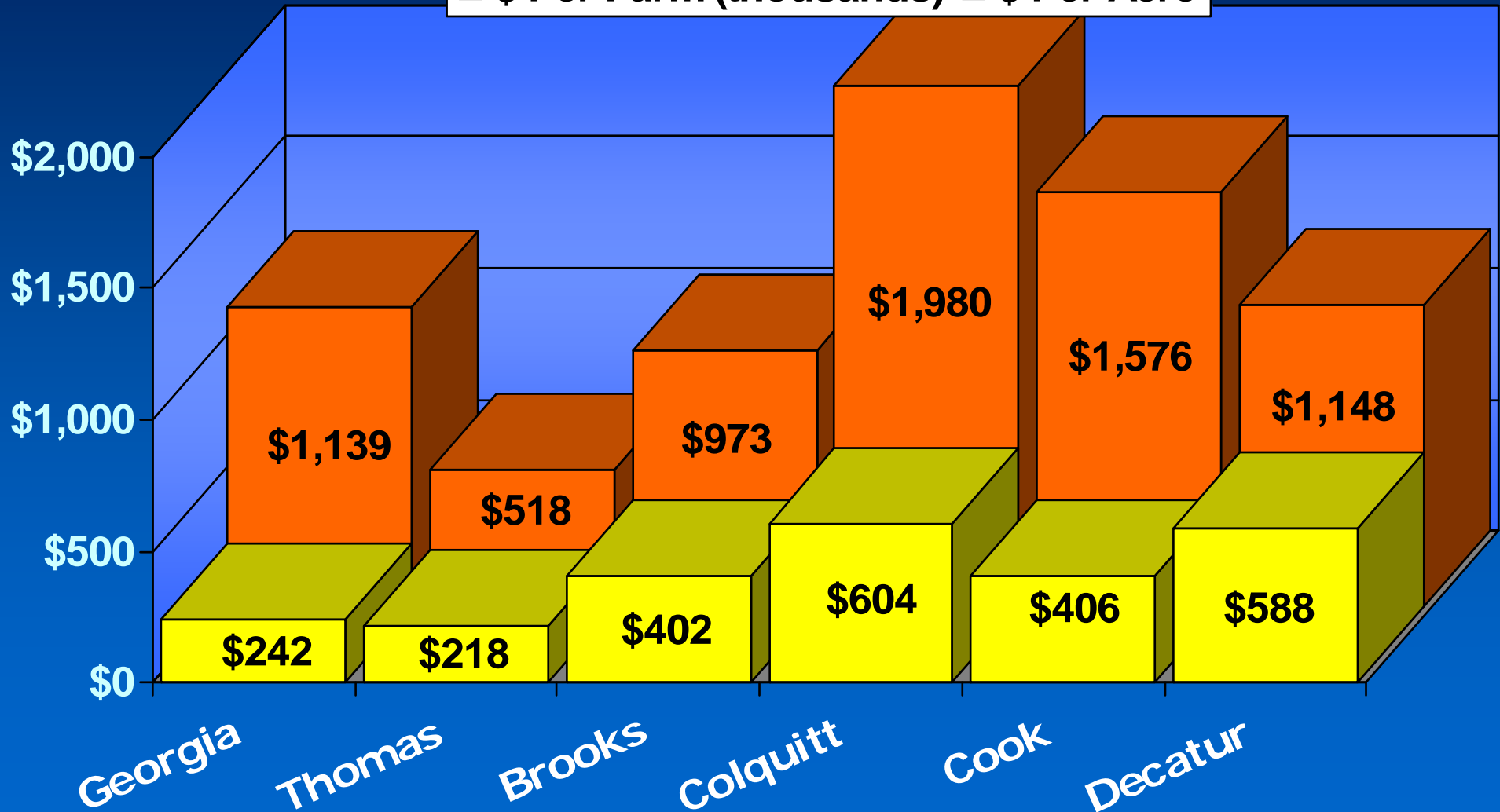


Source: 1987-2007 (quinquennial) Censuses of Agriculture

How Do We Compare ?

Georgia, Thomas and Surrounding Counties Farm Gate Value

■ \$ Per Farm (thousands) ■ \$ Per Acre



What We Did

County Economy Modeled

- 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?

Thomas County Economy

Agriculture *OUTPUT*

	Output in \$ Millions	Percent
Agriculture	113.719	3.8
Mining	44.397	1.5
Construction	123.951	4.1
Manufacturing	904.446	30.1
Trans-Utilities-Info	108.029	3.6
Trade	414.898	13.8
Finance-Ins-RE	327.032	10.9
Services	747.483	24.9
Government	223.624	7.4

Total County Economic Output = \$3.008 billion

Thomas County Economy

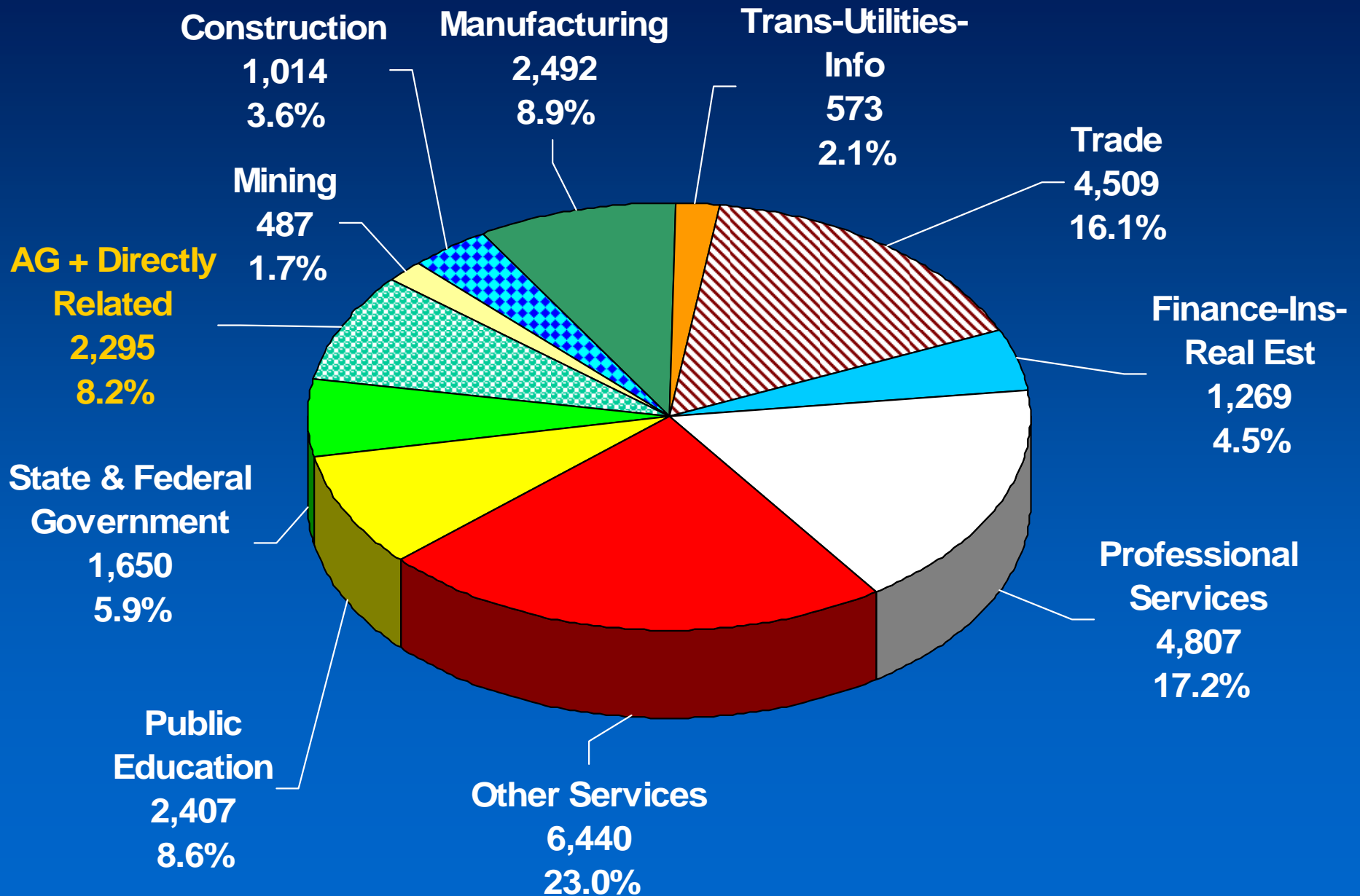
Agriculture + Directly Related Businesses *OUTPUT*

	Output in \$ Millions	Percent
Agriculture + Direct	292.235	9.7
Mining	44.397	1.5
Construction	123.951	4.1
Manufacturing	725.929	24.1
Trans-Utilities-Info	108.029	3.6
Trade	414.898	13.8
Finance-Ins-Real Est	327.032	10.9
Services	747.483	24.9
Government	223.624	7.4

Total County Economic Output = \$3.008 billion

Thomas County Employment

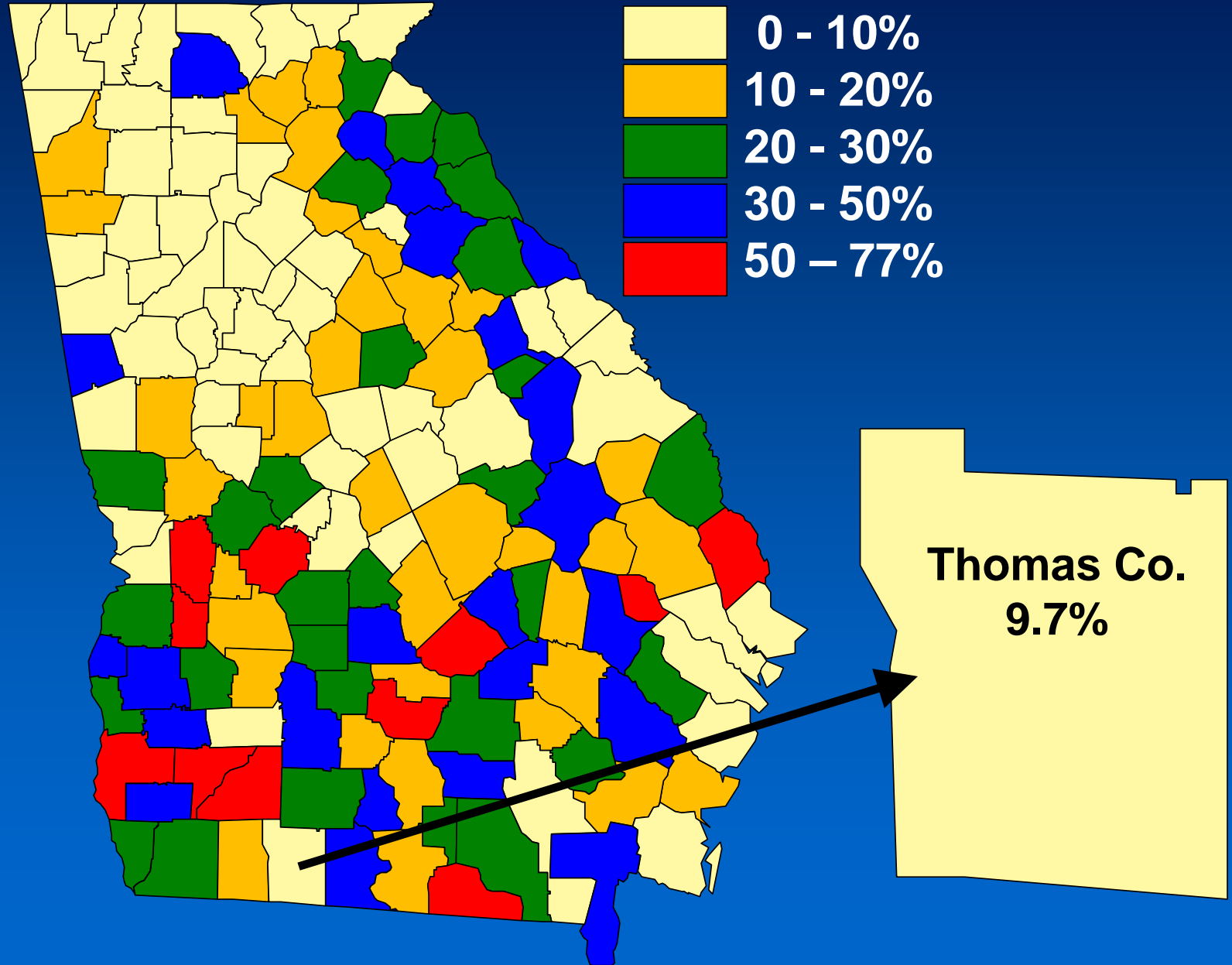
Total Jobs = 27,942



An Economic Snapshot of Thomas County

- How much of Thomas County's total economic output comes from food and fiber production?
- AG value alone of \$113.7 million consisting of Farm Gate Value and landscape services comprises 3.8% of the county's economy.
- AG plus directly related businesses (ex. paperboard mills, animal slaughtering, etc.) comprise 9.7% of the county's economy.

Food and Fiber Production and Directly Related Manufacturing as % of Total Output



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.



Thomas County

Agriculture *IMPACT*

	Direct \$ Millions	Indirect \$ Millions
Agriculture	113.719	0
Mining	0	0.022
Construction	0	0.560
Manufacturing	0	2.021
Trans-Utilities-Info	0	2.875
Trade	0	7.911
Finance-Ins-Real Est	0	10.552
Services	0	12.207
Government	0	1.193
Total	113.719	37.340

Total Impact of Production AG = \$151.1 million
5.0% of total economy

Thomas County

Production Agriculture + Directly Related Businesses *IMPACT*

	Direct \$ Millions	Indirect \$ Millions
Agriculture + Direct	292.235	0
Mining	0	0.152
Construction	0	1.738
Manufacturing	0	4.751
Trans-Utilities-Info	0	13.590
Trade	0	23.563
Finance-Ins-Real Est	0	18.581
Services	0	29.862
Government	0	2.551
Total	292.235	94.788

Total Impact of AG + Directly Related = \$387 million
12.9% of total economy

Thomas County

Production Agriculture + Directly Related Industries Employment *IMPACT*

	Direct	Indirect
Agriculture + Direct	2,295	0
Mining	0	1
Construction	0	19
Manufacturing	0	20
Trans-Utilities-Info	0	59
Trade	0	219
Finance-Ins-Real Est	0	73
Services	0	399
Government	0	15

**Total Impact of AG + Directly Related Employment = 3,100 Jobs
11.1% of total employment**

What These Numbers Mean: A Brief Explanation

- *Direct* impact is \$292.2 million. This includes food and fiber production, processing and directly related manufacturing.
- *Indirect* impact from the Trade sector is \$23.6 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:

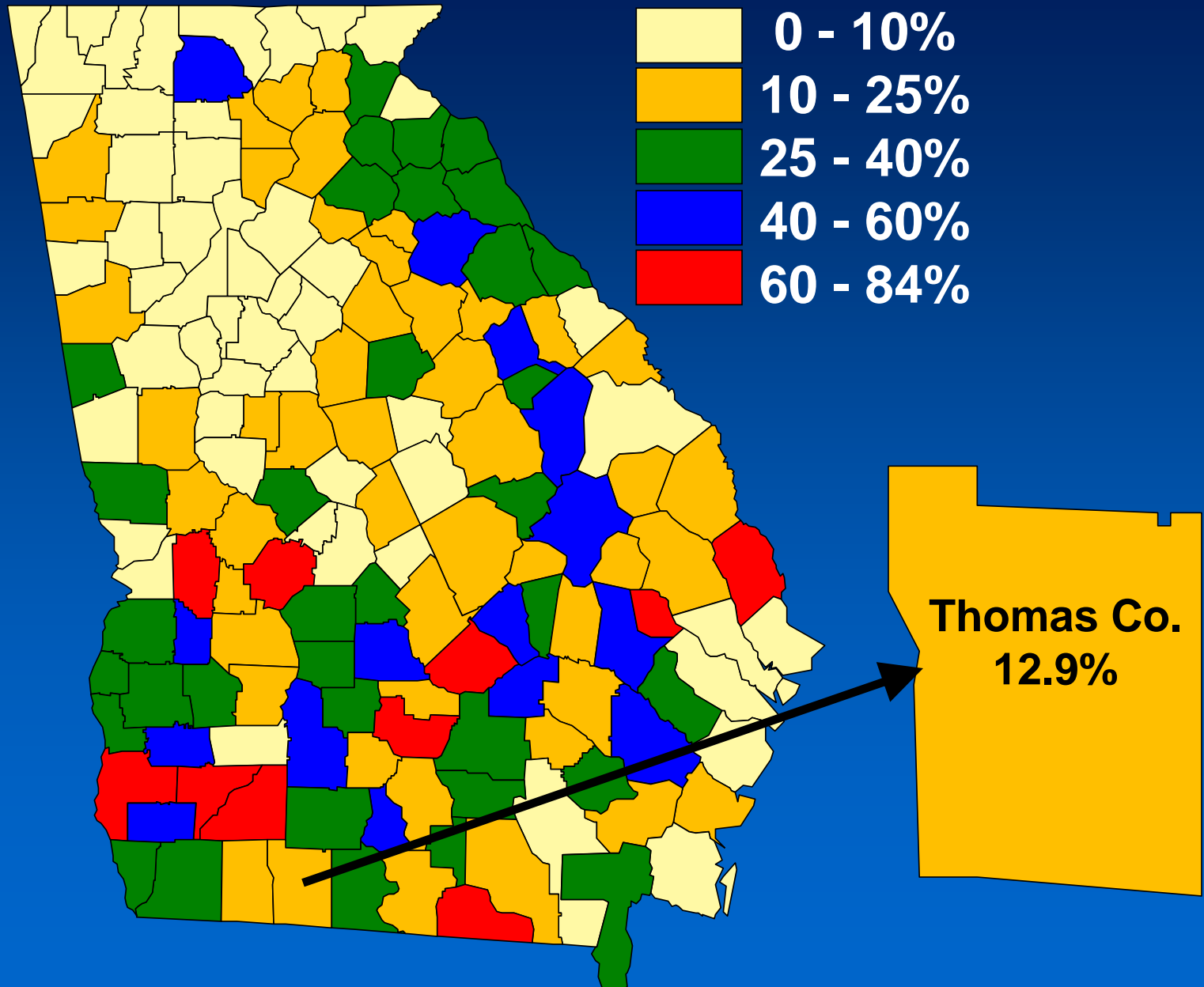
A Brief Explanation (continued)

- 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.

Thomas County Food and Fiber Impact Conclusions

- The total *impact* of food and fiber production, processing and direct manufacturing is \$387 million.
- The total county *output* is \$3.0 billion.
- Thus, food and fiber (directly and indirectly) account for 12.9% of the total county output.

Food and Fiber Production and Directly Related Manufacturing *IMPACT* as % of Total Output



Contact Information

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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

#09-08A

March, 2009

