The Economic Importance of Food and Fiber

A Spotlight on Lamar County, Georgia

Prepared for Lamar County Cooperative Extension
July, 2007

by The Center for Agribusiness and Economic Development
College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences
The University of Georgia
Total Population
Lamar County

2010 Trend CAED: 18,724
2006 Est.: 17,860
2000: 17,419
1990: 15,744
1980: 15,565
1970: 12,726
1960: 13,246
1950: 14,003
1940: 14,497
1930: 13,314

Primary data sources: U.S. Census Bureau, decennial censuses & estimate; CAED (Center for Agribusiness & Economic Development).

Loss: 0 – 6.4%
6.4 – 14.4%
14.4 – 34%
34 – 53.4%

Avg. GA County = 9.1%
GA = 14.4%
US = 6.4%

Primary data source: U.S. Census Bureau (3/07)
Percent of Land in Cropland & Forestland: 2002

- 23 – 40%
- 40 – 55%
- 55 – 70%
- 70 – 85%
- 85% or more

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 2006 Property Tax Gross Digest
Lamar County

- Residential: 51.2%
- Ag-Preferential-Environ-Conserv: 20.3%
- Commercial: 9.8%
- Motor Vehicle: 7.8%
- Industrial: 6.2%
- Public Utility: 3.7%
- Mobile Home: 0.6%
- Timber *: 0.4%

40% Assessment Value of Property
Gross Digest = $461,297,033
STATE Homestead & Property Exemptions = $52,689,635
Net M&O Digest = $408,607,398
Value of exempt property = $29,632,402

* Timber taxed at 100% based on previous year sales

Primary data source: GA Dept. of Revenue
<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>LAMAR</td>
<td>51.2</td>
<td>20.3</td>
<td>9.8</td>
<td>6.2</td>
<td>7.8</td>
<td>4.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BUTTS</td>
<td>46.4</td>
<td>26.0</td>
<td>11.1</td>
<td>2.9</td>
<td>7.8</td>
<td>5.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HENRY</td>
<td>63.9</td>
<td>2.4</td>
<td>14.5</td>
<td>11.2</td>
<td>6.3</td>
<td>1.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MONROE</td>
<td>21.9</td>
<td>6.8</td>
<td>4.3</td>
<td>0.1</td>
<td>3.1</td>
<td>63.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PIKE</td>
<td>54.7</td>
<td>27.1</td>
<td>5.2</td>
<td>1.6</td>
<td>8.7</td>
<td>2.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SPALDING</td>
<td>43.7</td>
<td>14.3</td>
<td>17.9</td>
<td>14.6</td>
<td>7.4</td>
<td>2.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UPSON</td>
<td>38.1</td>
<td>19.0</td>
<td>14.4</td>
<td>16.3</td>
<td>7.5</td>
<td>4.8</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>$1.92</td>
<td>$2.86</td>
<td>$1.01</td>
<td>$1.18</td>
<td>$2.70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Commercial</td>
<td>$1.79</td>
<td>$1.93</td>
<td>$1.25</td>
<td>$1.17</td>
<td>$3.19</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 2006 Farm Gate Value was $10.4 billion. Adding the value of landscape services increased the total agricultural production value to $12.2 billion.

- Total food and fiber production and directly related businesses account for a $34.5 billion output impact on Georgia's $55 billion economy.
Production Agriculture: 2006

Georgia Total Agricultural Production Value
$12.2 Billion

- Poultry & Eggs: 36.1%
- Landscape Services: 14.7%
- Livestock & Aquaculture: 10.4%
- Row & Forage Crops: 12.4%
- Ornamental Horticulture: 6.3%
- Vegetables: 6.8%
- Fruits & Nuts: 2.5%
- Forestry & Products: 5.5%
- Other Income: 5.3%

2006 Farm Gate Value by County in Millions of Dollars

- $0 - $20
- $20 - $45
- $45 - $80
- $80 - $200
- $200 - $385
2006 Farm Gate Value in Lamar Co. was $36.2 million. Adding $713 thousand of landscape services increased the total agricultural production value to $36.9 million.

The highest value commodity group was poultry/eggs, representing 43% of the total agricultural production value.
Lamar County
2006 Agricultural Production Value

2006 Agricultural Production

- Row-Forage crops: 10.5%
- Poultry-Eggs: 43.0%
- Livestock-Aquaculture: 23.0%
- Fruits-Nuts: 1.0%
- Vegetables: 1.0%
- Forestry: 2.5%
- Orn Hort: 15.2%
- Landscape services: 1.9%
- Other: 1.8%

2006 Top Farm Gate Commodities

- Broilers: 43.8%
- Field Nursery: 15.0%
- Hay: 1.5%
- Rest of Commodities: 10.1%
- Cotton: 3.0%
- Timber: 1.8%
- Wheat: 1.8%
- Dairy: 5.3%
- Pork: 5.0%
- Beef: 6.1%
- Horses: 6.7%

Total AG Value = $36.9 million
Trends in Lamar County:
Number of Farms & Average Farm Size

Number of Farms, Lamar County

Average Farm Size

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

Land in Farms
Lamar County

Percent of Farms by Size, 2002

Source: 1945-2002 (quinquennial) Censuses of Agriculture
Trends in Lamar County

Number of Farms by Commodity

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

Georgia, Lamar and Surrounding Counties
Farm Gate Value

$ Per Farm (thousands)  $ Per Acre

Sources: 2002 Census of Agriculture and 2006 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?
## Lamar County Economy

### Agriculture OUTPUT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Industry</th>
<th>Output in $ Millions</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Agriculture</td>
<td>36.869</td>
<td>6.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mining</td>
<td>.910</td>
<td>.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Construction</td>
<td>29.494</td>
<td>5.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manufacturing</td>
<td>276.726</td>
<td>48.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trans-Utilities-Info</td>
<td>34.802</td>
<td>6.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trade</td>
<td>31.501</td>
<td>5.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Finance-Ins-RE</td>
<td>21.781</td>
<td>3.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Services</td>
<td>60.739</td>
<td>10.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Govt &amp; Other</td>
<td>83.700</td>
<td>14.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total County Economic Output = $576.5 million**
### Lamar County Economy
Agriculture + Directly Related Businesses *OUTPUT*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Industry</th>
<th>Output in $ Millions</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Agriculture + Direct</strong></td>
<td>109.085</td>
<td>18.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mining</td>
<td>.910</td>
<td>.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Construction</td>
<td>29.494</td>
<td>5.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manufacturing</td>
<td>204.510</td>
<td>35.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trans-Utilities-Info</td>
<td>34.802</td>
<td>6.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trade</td>
<td>31.501</td>
<td>5.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Finance-Ins-RE</td>
<td>21.781</td>
<td>3.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Services</td>
<td>60.739</td>
<td>10.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Government</td>
<td>83.700</td>
<td>14.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total County Economic Output = $576.5 million**
An Economic Snapshot of Lamar County

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

- AG value alone of $36.9 million consisting of Farm Gate Value and landscape services comprises 6.4% of the county’s economy.

- AG plus directly related businesses (ex. flour milling, sawmills, etc.) comprise 18.9% of the county’s economy.
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.
## Lamar County Agriculture IMPACT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Industry</th>
<th>Direct $ Millions</th>
<th>Indirect $ Millions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Agriculture</td>
<td>36.869</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Construction</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>.083</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manufacturing</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>.254</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trans-Utilities-Info</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1.132</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trade</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>.923</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Finance-Ins-RE</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>.721</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Services</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1.348</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Government</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1.233</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>36.869</strong></td>
<td><strong>5.695</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total Impact of Production AG = $42.6 million—7.4% of total economy
## Lamar County
Production Agriculture + Directly Related Businesses *IMPACT*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Industry</th>
<th>Direct $ Millions</th>
<th>Indirect $ Millions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Agriculture + Direct</td>
<td>41.601</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Construction</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>.190</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manufacturing</td>
<td>67.484</td>
<td>1.793</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trans-Utilities-Info</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>5.009</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trade</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>3.561</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Finance-Ins-RE</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1.866</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Services</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>3.212</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Government</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2.362</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>109.085</strong></td>
<td><strong>17.993</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total Impact of AG + Directly Related = $127.1 million--22% of total economy
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Industry</th>
<th>Direct</th>
<th>Indirect</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Agriculture + Direct</td>
<td>622</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Construction</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manufacturing</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trans-Utilities-Info</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trade</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Finance-Ins-RE</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Services</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Government</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total Impact of AG + Directly Related Employment = 793 jobs
What These Numbers Mean: A Brief Explanation

- **Direct** impact is $41.6 million. This includes food and fiber production, processing and directly related manufacturing.

- **Indirect** impact from the Trade sector is $3.6 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.
Lamar County Food and Fiber Impact Conclusions

- The total *impact* of food and fiber production, processing and direct manufacturing is $127.1 million.
- The total *output* is $576.5 million.
- Thus, food and fiber (directly and indirectly) account for 22% of the total output.
Food and Fiber Production and Directly Related Manufacturing *IMPACT* as % of Total Output

Lamar Co. 22%
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
#0716A
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