

The Economic Importance of Agriculture Series

This brochure is one of a series of publications from the Center for Agribusiness and Economic Development.

The goal of these brochures is to inform Georgians of the essential role agriculture plays in the economy. Others in the series include:

- * *Economic Importance of Food and Fiber Production and Processing*
- * *Poultry and Eggs*
- * *Livestock & Aquaculture*
- * *Vegetables*
- * *Ornamental Horticulture*
- * *Forestry and Related Products*
- * *Fruits and Nuts*



The University of Georgia

College of Agricultural & Environmental Sciences

The Center for Agribusiness and Economic Development is a unit of the College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences, combining the missions of research and extension.

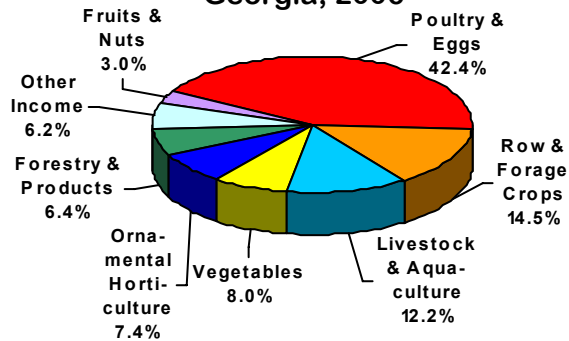
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Scott Angle, Dean and Director

Economic Importance of Row and Forage Crops in Georgia



Food and Fiber Production Value Georgia, 2006



Total Farm Gate Value = \$10.4 billion

Source: 2006 Georgia Farm Gate Value Survey

Center for Agribusiness and Economic Development

John C. McKissick, Director
 The Lumpkin House, Athens, GA 30602
 Phone: 706-542-0760 Fax: 706-542-8934
 Email: caed@agecon.uga.edu

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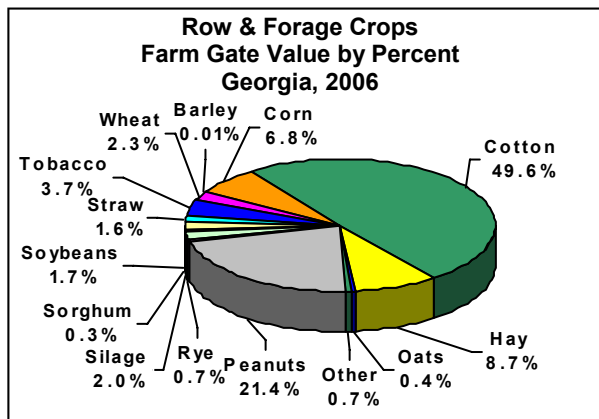
Brochure Series 07-03

Center for Agribusiness and Economic Development

“Adding Value to Georgia’s Agricultural Economy Through Research and Extension”

Georgia's Row & Forage Crop Industry

Row and forage crops have traditionally been the backbone of Georgia agriculture, particularly in the southern portion of the state. Row and forage crop producers face many challenges: low commodity prices, irrigation restrictions and population pressure. Despite these factors, row and forage crops remain an important component of Georgia agriculture.

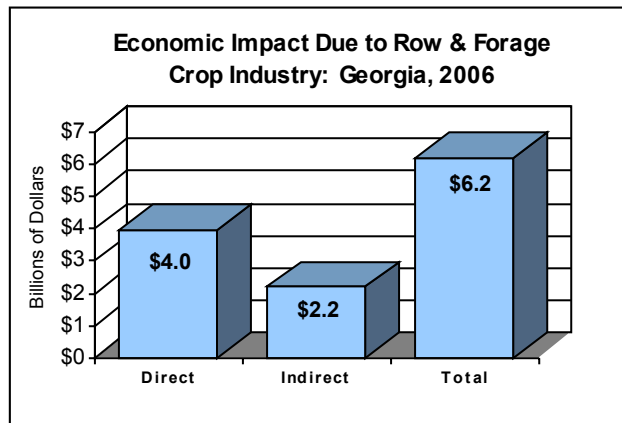


GEORGIA CROP FACTS:

- Row and forage crop production had a total Farm Gate Value of \$1.5 billion in 2006.
- Georgia cropland encompasses 4.7 million acres. (2002 U.S. Census of Agriculture)
- Cotton and peanuts ranked in the Top Ten 2006 commodities for farm gate value. (Center for Agribusiness)
- Georgia produced 45% of the nation's peanuts in 2005. (USDA, NASS)

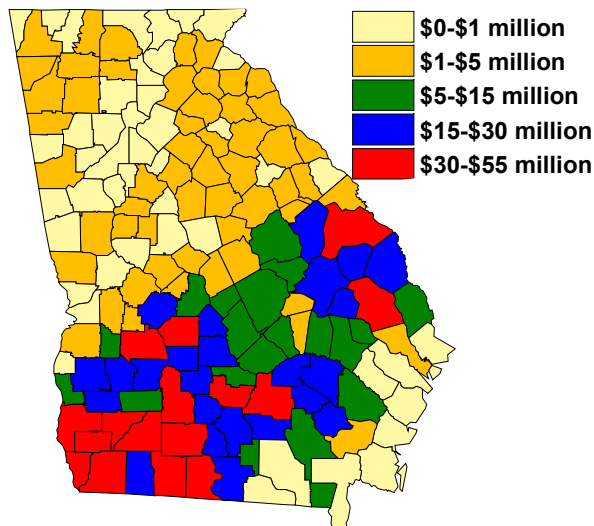
OUTPUT IMPACT

- ⇒ Row & forage crop producers and processors generate **direct** sales of \$4.0 billion.
- ⇒ These sales, in turn, generate additional sales in the state economy, creating another \$2.2 billion of **indirect** economic impact.



- ⇒ The row and forage crop industry generates a total economic impact of \$6.2 billion for the State of Georgia.

2006 Row & Forage Crops Farm Gate Value by County

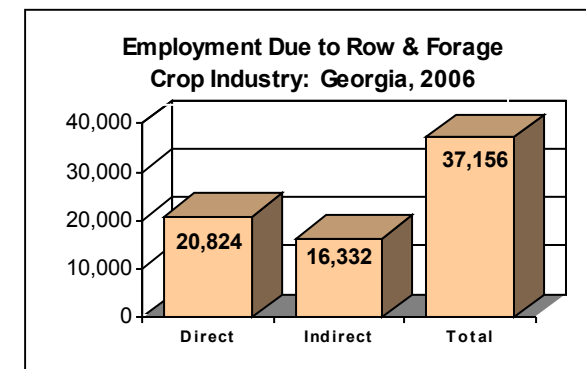


EMPLOYMENT IMPACT

- ⇒ The row and forage crop industry producers and processors **directly** employ 20,824 workers in Georgia which include full-time and part-time jobs.



- ⇒ **Indirect** employment (those relying on the row & forage crop industry) provides an additional 16,332 jobs. This group includes those who provide inputs to the crop industry, such as utility suppliers. Increased wage spending creates jobs in other sectors, such as retail sales and health services.



- ⇒ A **total** of 37,156 jobs are created due to the row and forage crop industry in Georgia.

STUDY METHODOLOGY

- ⇒ This study used an input-output model called IMPLAN to determine the effects of the row & forage crop industry in Georgia.



- ⇒ Data used came from IMPLAN as well as from the **2006 Farm Gate Value Report**. Production includes the major industrial sectors included in this series. Processing includes all industries which rely directly on the production of agricultural products in Georgia.