

GEORGIA AGRICULTURAL FACTS

2008 EDITION

GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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Cooperating with

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

National Agricultural Statistics Service

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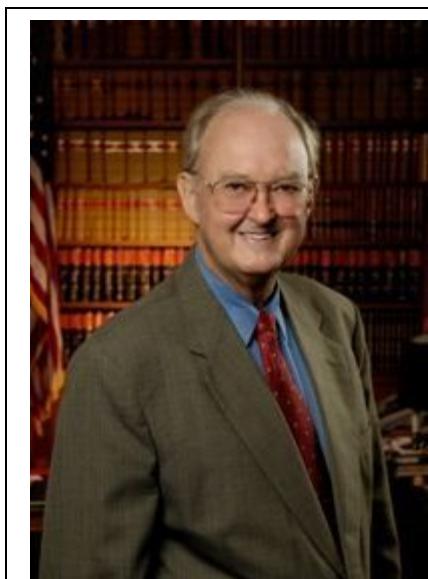
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A MESSAGE FROM THE COMMISSIONER



Dear Fellow Georgians:

The Georgia Department of Agriculture takes great pride in publishing the ***Georgia Agricultural Facts 2008 Edition***. This is made possible through cooperation with the Georgia Field Office of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, National Agricultural Statistics Service. The Georgia Field Office collects and updates data for our state and also provides the current information online at http://www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics_by_State/Georgia/index.asp.

Accurate information and statistics are key factors in helping farmers make decisions and adapt to changing conditions. That is why the work of the National Agricultural Statistics Service is so important and why we are proud to publish this valuable research and reference guide.

Sincerely,

Tommy Irvin



USDA,NASS,
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Dear Data User:

The Georgia Field Office of USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) is proud to present the 2008 edition of "**Georgia Agricultural Facts.**" This publication contains valuable and relevant information highlighting the importance of agriculture as Georgia's number one industry. The current and historical state and county agricultural statistics tells the story of the state's agricultural production in 2007.

As you know, agriculture is a dynamic industry and production agriculture continues to change at an unprecedented pace. The strong demand, both domestically and internationally, for agricultural products lead to a noticeable rise in prices received for many commodities this past year. At the same time, however, production costs rose at an unprecedented rate for inputs like fuel, fertilizer, seed, and feed. Another big story affecting Georgia agriculture was the weather. The April freeze and drought conditions during much of the growing season severely impacted production of several commodities. With these and other uncertainties facing growers and agriculture businesses, the need for accurate and timely information to make good decisions is critical.

It is our mission to ensure you are equipped with the best available agricultural data. As a service agency, we welcome the opportunity to provide factual information contained in this publication and on the Internet.

We appreciate the cooperation and support of the Georgia Department of Agriculture who provided funding for this publication. We especially thank the many farmers and ranchers who gave of their valuable time to participate in our surveys and provide much of the information in this bulletin. In addition, thanks goes to the University of Georgia Cooperative Extension and USDA Farm Service Center staffs for assisting us with additional information and support in preparing these statistics.

A special thanks go to our office staff and our National Association of State Departments of Agriculture staff for their dedication in providing quality agricultural statistics for Georgia. We are pleased to share group photos of our field staff, on the previous page. Our entire staff is committed to serving you. Please contact us anytime with your comments, questions, or requests for assistance.

As we look ahead, the 2007 Census of Agriculture will be published by our office in February 2009. This data source for Georgia agriculture will provide updated information at the county level for comparison over time and across the state and nation.

Sincerely,

Douglas G. Kleweno
Director

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