

2007 Census of Agriculture Facts Summary of Highlights for Georgia

Farm Numbers

- 2007 Census of Agriculture **farm numbers in the U.S.** totaled 2,204,792, a 4 percent increase from 2002.
- In **Georgia**, there were 47,846 **farms** in 2007, a 3 percent decrease or loss of 1,465 farms since 2002.
- The **average Georgia farm size** in 2007 was 212 acres compared with 218 acres in 2002 and 228 in 1997.
- **Land in farms** in Georgia during the 5 year period decreased 5.5 percent to 10,150,539 acres in 2007. Cropland acres in 2007 dropped to 4.5 million acres.
- **Irrigated cropland** acres in Georgia increased 16.9 percent in the past five years to 1,017,773 acres.
- **Organic farms** in Georgia in 2007 totaled 136 farms with sales totaling over \$2.0 million dollars.

Economic

- **Market value of land and buildings** in Georgia for 2007 was \$3,117 per acre compared with \$2,112 in 2002.
- In 2007, **Georgia farms sold \$7.1 billion in agricultural products** compared with \$4.9 billion in 2002. Poultry and eggs was the leading commodity sold with 59.7 percent of all sales.
- In 2007, 2,412 Georgia farms produced 75% of all agricultural products sold, down from 2,773 farms five years ago.
- The **net cash farm income** of operators in 2007 was \$1.57 billion dollars, an increase of 14%, from 2002. However, the percent of Georgia farm operations reporting net losses was 63.4 percent, up 2 percent from 2002.

- **Total farm expenditures** in 2007 were 56 percent higher than in 2002.
- **Products marketed directly to individuals** in 2007 totaled \$13.1 million dollars in sales from 1,890 Georgia farms. This is a 46.2 percent increase from \$ 8.96 million in 2002.
- **Agri-tourism income** reported by Georgia farms totaled \$14.65 million dollars and provided an average income of \$24,342 dollars on 602 farms.
- **Forest product sales**, as a Georgia farm related income source, totaled \$53.6 million dollars in 2007 (2,043 farms) compared with \$34.3 million in 2002.

Demographics

- In Georgia, the number of principal farm operators increased for all **races and ethnic groups** represented in the census, except Spanish, Hispanic, or Latino origin operators. Most significantly, the number of farms operated by Asian operators increased from 79 to 235 and women principal operators rose 17 percent from 2002 to 7,532 farms. The increase in Black and African American operators was 4.2 percent in 2007, totaling 2,072 farms.
- The **average age** of the Georgia farmer was 57.8 in 2007 compared with 55 in 2002. Principal farm operators over 65 years old accounted for 31 percent of the total.
- Principal operators reporting **primary occupation other than farming** in Georgia was 58 percent, up 9 percentage points since 2002.
- Principal operators reporting some **days worked off-the-farm** was 63 percent compared with 54 percent in 2002.
- The number of farms with **internet access** increased to 53 percent in 2007. **High speed internet access** was reported on 36 percent of Georgia operations.