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News Release

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2007 CENSUS OF AGRICULTURE

Georgia Census of Agriculture provides data, shows trends and projections for State's leading industry Agriculture continues to be the leading industry in the state producing \$7.1 billion in sales annually, states Georgia's Deputy Commissioner of Agriculture Terry Coleman.

Coleman was speaking at the release of the Census of Agriculture report in Atlanta at the Georgia Department of Agriculture this afternoon.

Moderating and analyzing Georgia figures, Coleman states Georgia ranks 14th in agriculture products sold.

In other areas, Coleman states Georgia continues to lead the nation in the production of broilers, poultry & eggs, peanuts and pecans. We have the largest inventory of quail in the nation, he states.

Doug Kleweno, Director, USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service, Georgia Field Office released the full report to agriculture officials and others at a 1:00 p.m. briefing at the Agriculture Department.

Kleweno states the state now has more organic farms than ever before. Georgia now has 136 organic farms representing more than 2,000 acres with sales totaling more than \$2 million.

Franklin county is the number one county in Georgia in agriculture sales, Kleweno states. Franklin county is the center of the egg and poultry industry in the state. Colquitt and Mitchell are the second and third leading counties in our state in agriculture sales, representing row crops and other farm products.

Kleweno states, agri-tourism is on the rise at Georgia farms earning \$14.65 million in revenue. The average agri-tourism facility earns on average \$24,342 in agri-tourism activities. That figure is more than triple the agri-tourism dollars reported in the 2002 Agriculture Census, Kleweno states.