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GEORGIA AGRICULTURAL FACTS

2004 EDITION

GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Thomas T. Irvin, Commissioner

Cooperating with

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

National Agricultural Statistics Service

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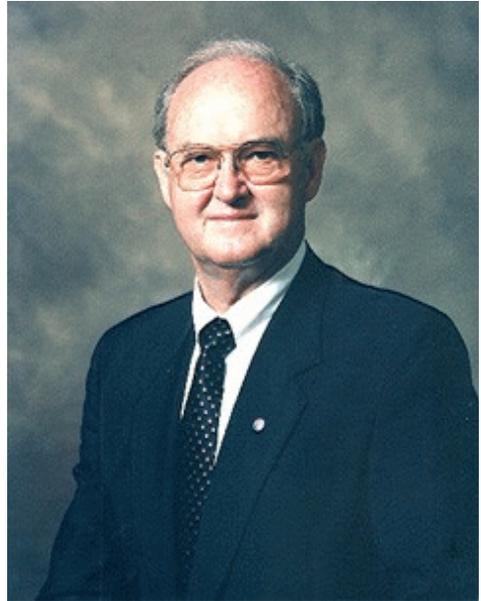
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A MESSAGE FROM COMMISSIONER IRVIN

Dear Georgians:

Although **Georgia Agricultural Facts** is designed primarily as a reference guide for farmers and agribusiness professionals, those who work in the fields of education, communication, economics, government, and others who rely on accurate agricultural data find it a useful research tool. We urge more of those involved in long-range planning for the development of Georgia's resources to study the data presented in the **2004 Edition of Georgia Agricultural Facts**. Our future depends on the interpretation of our history by our present day planners and decision makers.



Comparison of statistical data over a period of time mirrors the changing face of agriculture. One can recognize the year-to-year changes which are cyclical and those trends that have become permanent conditions. One can hear the voice of the farmers, agribusiness owners, County Extension officials, and the many others in the agricultural economy who voluntarily contributed to the collection of the information presented here.

The Georgia Department of Agriculture is proud to publish **Georgia Agricultural Facts 2004 Edition** in cooperation with the Georgia Agricultural Statistics Service. The Georgia Agricultural Statistics Service continuously updates data as do other state divisions of the National Agricultural Statistics Service and provides the current information online. The Georgia Department of Agriculture website www.agr.state.ga.us provides a link to the statistics as well as many other sources of information.

Sincerely,

Tommy Irvin
Commissioner
Georgia Department of Agriculture

FOREWORD

I am pleased to present the “2004 Georgia Agricultural Facts,” a data picture of the State’s over \$5 billion industry. As a partner with the Georgia Department of Agriculture, our mission is to provide accurate and timely information to all involved with agriculture. Our greatest assets in this mission are the agricultural producers and agribusinesses who willingly provide these important data to make these publications possible.

The 2002 Census of Agriculture for Georgia and the U.S. are available on our Website. Printed and compact disk versions will be available in the fall of 2004. The release of these data culminates a three year effort of collecting, editing, analyzing, and summarizing these data. The census of agriculture are collected every five years. These data provide a more detailed look at our industry, with most data published at the county level. The census identifies new trends and commodities as this industry continues to grow and change.

I would like to thank Commissioner Irvin and his staff for the publication of these data. The information in this book is used by many and various parts of agriculture; from the producer to the buyer, from the banker to the legislatures that make policy, from the researcher to the equipment and chemical providers. I also thank our professional enumerators who collect these data by phone and personal interview. And, of course, I thank the staff in this office who compiled these data for your use.

Be sure to visit our Website: www.nass.usda.gov/ga/ for your other data needs.

Remember: Georgia counts on Agriculture!

Regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "David S. Abbe".

David S. Abbe
Director

Georgia Department of Agriculture Mission Statement

We at the Georgia Department of Agriculture take our responsibilities to you very seriously and are committed to providing superior agricultural products, service and leadership into the 21st century.

Our mission is to provide excellence in services and regulatory functions, to protect and promote agriculture and consumer interests, and to ensure an abundance of safe food and fiber for Georgia, America and the world by using state-of-the-art technology, and a professional workforce.

National Agricultural Statistics Service Mission Statement

To provide timely, accurate, and useful statistics in service to U. S. agriculture.