Welcome
We’re glad
Georgia’s on your mind.

Harald Scherm
Assistant Dean for Research
University of Georgia, Athens
Georgia’s Physiography

- Largest state east of the Mississippi
- Physiographically diverse
- Agriculturally diverse
Agriculture is **BIG** Business in Georgia

- Total economic Impact of $76.9 billion for the state, over $13.9 billion total farm gate value
- Food and fiber sector employs 375,800 workers, more than any other sector of the GA economy
- More than 13% of total employment in the state
- Over 12% of the value-added business
2012 Georgia Agricultural Commodity Rankings

2012 Total Farm Gate Value = $13.9 billion
2011 = $13.0 billion

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Commodity</th>
<th>Farm Gate Value</th>
<th>% of GA Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Broilers</td>
<td>$4,698,860,078</td>
<td>33.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Cotton</td>
<td>$1,303,963,388</td>
<td>9.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Peanuts</td>
<td>$891,855,186</td>
<td>6.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Eggs</td>
<td>$792,868,250</td>
<td>5.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Beef</td>
<td>$537,688,093</td>
<td>3.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Timber</td>
<td>$523,290,282</td>
<td>3.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Corn</td>
<td>$507,140,881</td>
<td>3.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Horses</td>
<td>$342,171,919</td>
<td>2.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Dairy</td>
<td>$338,351,360</td>
<td>2.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Greenhouse</td>
<td>$259,160,015</td>
<td>1.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Pecans</td>
<td>$249,298,409</td>
<td>1.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Blueberries</td>
<td>$254,853,216</td>
<td>2.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Breeder Pullet Unit</td>
<td>$224,937,059</td>
<td>1.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Ag-based Tourism</td>
<td>$194,138,372</td>
<td>1.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Pork</td>
<td>$171,607,605</td>
<td>1.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Onions</td>
<td>$163,045,682</td>
<td>1.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>Watermelon</td>
<td>$159,552,119</td>
<td>1.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>Container Nursery</td>
<td>$141,767,646</td>
<td>1.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>Hay</td>
<td>$130,368,410</td>
<td>0.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>Soybeans</td>
<td>$126,664,100</td>
<td>0.9%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Georgia’s Specialty Crop Rankings in National Context

• **Fresh market vegetables**: 4th in area harvested and production
• **Snap Beans**: 2nd in area harvested and production
• **Cantaloupes**: 3rd in area harvested, 4th in production
• **Sweet Corn**: 3rd in area harvested and production
• **Cucumbers**: 2nd in area harvested and production
• **Spring Harvest Onions**: 1st in area harvested and value of production
• **Watermelons**: 2nd in area harvested and production
• **Cultivated Blueberries**: 2nd in area harvested, 4th in production and value of production
• **Peaches**: 3rd in bearing acreage and production
• **Pecans**: 1st in production and value of production
Vegetables

- 2012 Farm Gate Value: $936 million
- Economic Contribution: $2.3 billion and >13,750 jobs
Fruits & Nuts

- 2012 Farm Gate Value: $547 million
- Economic Contribution $2.3 million and nearly 12,800 jobs
Ornamental Hort

- 2012 Farm Gate Value: $749 million
- Economic Contribution $6.4 billion and >67,800 jobs
CAES Research & Education Centers

Northwest REC (Calhoun)
- Beef cattle research
- Bull and heifer testing

J. Phil Campbell REC (Watkinsville)
- Grazing and forage systems
- Conservation cropping
- Field-scale watershed research
- Sustainable agriculture hub

Southwest REC (Plains)
- Row crop research
- Cattle breeding and forage res.

Stripling Irrigation Park (Camilla)
- Precision irrigation and precision agriculture

Mountain REC (Blairsville)
- Diverse fruits & vegetables
- Community outreach

Southeast REC (Midville)
- Row crops and biofuels crops

Vidalia Onion & Vegetable Res. Ctr. (Lyons)

Attapulgus REC (Attapulgus)
- Row crop pest management
- Low-chill peach breeding progr,
Athens

Griffin

Urban agriculture, food safety, food technology, environmental sciences

Tifton

Production and precision agriculture

Comprehensive programs in agricultural and environmental sciences
What Will the Future Hold? Water and Climate

- Avg. rainfall about 50” per year
- Recent drought years: about 30” per year
- Abundant water resources, although temporal and spatial variability and some problem areas (Lower Flint River)
- Leader in precision irrigation (Stripling Irrigation Res. Park)
- Climate change projections relatively favorable (e.g., 2014 Natl. Climate Assessment)
What Will the Future Hold? Water and Climate

- Avg. rainfall about 50” per year
- Recent drought years: about 30” per year
- Abundant water resources, although temporal and spatial variability and some problem areas (Lower Flint River)
- Leader in precision irrigation (Stripling Irrigation Res. Park)
- Climate change projections relatively favorable (e.g., 2014 Natl. Climate Assessment)

Comparatively well-positioned for continued growth in specialty crops
Acknowledgments:

• Kent Wolfe & Karen Stubbs
  Center for Agribusiness &
  Economic Development

• Elizabeth Kramer
  Department of Agricultural &
  Applied Economics