

# Savannah River Summit: Shaping the Region's Future Economy

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## **Agriculture**

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Agriculture in eastern Georgia is large, diverse and dispersed across the entire district with various pockets of enterprises.

The total Farm Gate Value of agriculture in the region (as defined by this summit) is about \$504 million in 2002 and will be more than that this year.

Farm Gate Value is collected by county. Bulloch and Oglethorpe Counties contribute approximately one-half of the Farm Gate Value. Burke County contributes about 14 percent of the total with the remainder dispersed across the remaining counties.

Agriculture is very diverse within the region and the Farm gate Value is fairly evenly distributed among different enterprises.

Row and Forage Crops	22%
Livestock and Aquaculture	19%
Poultry and Eggs	17%
Forestry	12%
Ornamental Horticulture	12%
All other	17%

Farm Gate Value of Forest Production was nearly \$63 million in 2002. Timber production accounted for over 90 percent of total value with pine straw and Christmas trees accounting for most of the remainder.

Farm Gate Value of Vegetable Production was nearly \$13 million with about one-half of that accounted for by Vidalia Onions. Watermelon production accounted for over \$2 million. The remainder is split among a large variety of vegetable products.

Broiler production through integrated operations dominates the Poultry Sector accounting for nearly \$74 million of the total sector of \$84 million. Broiler grower operations and the hatching of laying chicks complete the sector.

Pecans are the largest contributor in the Fruit and Nut sector providing over \$2.3 million in value of the total. Grape production Farm Gate Value was about \$850,000 with lesser value of peaches, strawberries and blueberries.

The Dairy Industry accounts for more than one-half of the total Cattle Sector or about \$28 million. Cow-calf production along with associated stocker operations account for most of the rest.

In the All Other Livestock Sector, horses represent just over one-half or \$15.1 million. Swine operations including both feeder pig and farrow to finish operations represent a total of about \$11.8 million with small values contributed by catfish, goat, quail and sheep production.

Ornamental horticulture contributes a total of almost \$62 million in Farm Gate Value within the District. Almost one-half of that is derived from container nursery production, with turf grass and green house production representing most of the remainder.

Row and Forage Crops contribute about \$113 million in Farm Gate Value to the district. The five crops with the highest contributions are cotton (\$30 million), peanuts (\$22 million), hay (\$41.2 million), silage (\$10.5 million) and corn for grain (\$10 million).

The final category for Farm Gate Values is all other sources where Government Payments of \$37.5 million represent over one-half of the category. Also important contributors are crop insurance proceeds and hunting leases.

## **Useful Websites**

### **United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)**

[www.usda.gov](http://www.usda.gov)

### **USDA links to agencies, services, and programs**

[www.usda.gov/services.html](http://www.usda.gov/services.html)

### **U.S. House Committee on Agriculture**

[www.agriculture.house.gov](http://www.agriculture.house.gov)

### **U.S. House Committee on Appropriations**

[www.appropriations.house.gov](http://www.appropriations.house.gov)

### **U.S. Senate Committee on Agriculture**

[www.agriculture.senate.gov](http://www.agriculture.senate.gov)

### **University of Georgia College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences**

[www.ugacescn.ces.uga.edu/caeshome/](http://www.ugacescn.ces.uga.edu/caeshome/)

### **University of Georgia Cooperative Extension Service**

[www.ces.uga.edu/](http://www.ces.uga.edu/)

### **Agweb.com**

[www.agweb.com](http://www.agweb.com)