



2022 Georgia Agricultural Census: Inputs

Jared Daniel and Guy Hancock

Ag Land, Irrigated, # of Operations					
	2017		2022		% Change
	#	%	#	%	
Avg. Acres/Farm	208	-	201	-	-3%
1.0-9.0 acres	2,409	39%	2,641	41%	10%
10.0-49.9 acres	1,134	18%	1,438	23%	27%
50.0-99.9 acres	504	8%	515	8%	2%
100-199 acres	591	10%	485	8%	-18%
200-499 acres	727	12%	638	10%	-12%
500-999 acres	546	9%	349	5%	-36%
1,000-1,999 acres	199	3%	212	3%	7%

- Higher agricultural input prices across all categories resulted in producers not investing resources into their least productive land.
- Between 2017 and 2022, the percentage of acres that a major input was utilized decreased in most categories by 6%-34%.
- Only chemical nematicide and other chemical (e.g. wildlife deterrents and plant growth regulators) applications increased from 2017 to 2022.
- The most notable input change observed from the 2022 data is the drastic 132% increase in nematicide use on Georgia acres.

- Between 2017 and 2022, there was a notable hollowing out of mid-sized irrigated agriculture operations (100-999 acres). This development can be partially attributed to large operations' economies of scale benefits and smaller operations' ability to utilize a significant amount of owner/family labor.
- 2022 data does show an increase in smaller farming operations that could also likely be attributed to a pandemic-inspired interest in small-scale production.
- The percentage change in the 2,000+ acre operation segment surged more than any category in 2022, with many large producers absorbing irrigated acreage from mid-sized operations.

Ag Land, Treated, Acres					
	2017		2022		% Change
	#	%	#	%	
Fertilizer (total)	3,446,808	35%	2,975,334	30%	-14%
Fertilizer (manure)	627,178	6%	516,439	5%	-18%
Fertilizer (organic)	73,098	1%	61,277	1%	-16%
Chemical, Insecticide (excl. nematicides)	2,646,137	27%	1,758,380	18%	-34%
Chemical, Herbicide (total)	3,420,961	34%	3,216,758	32%	-6%
Chemical, Insecticide (nematicides)	671,621	7%	1,561,398	16%	132%
Chemical, Fungicide (total)	1,130,408	11%	1,061,167	11%	-6%
Chemical, Other (total)	1,153,845	12%	1,438,573	14%	25%

Sources: U.S. Department of Agriculture National Agricultural Statistics Service, 2017 Census of Agriculture and 2022 Census of Agriculture, calculations made by authors, adjusted to 2022 dollars



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Selected Input Expense Totals, Measured in \$					
	2017		2022		% Change
	\$	%	\$	%	
Fertilizer, Incl. Lime & Soil Conditioners	\$540,047,093	8%	\$594,606,000	8%	10%
Chemicals	\$489,949,982	7%	\$532,583,000	7%	9%
Seeds & Plants	\$373,968,485	6%	\$399,824,000	6%	7%
Animals	\$1,199,521,353	18%	\$1,326,524,000	18%	11%
Feed	\$2,703,862,612	41%	\$3,100,032,000	43%	15%
Fuels, Incl. Lubricants	\$338,507,706	5%	\$346,713,000	5%	2%
Ag Services, Utilities	\$242,408,649	4%	\$229,821,000	3%	-5%
Supplies & Repairs (excl. lubricants)	\$435,043,740	7%	\$464,853,000	6%	7%
Ag Services, Customwork	\$212,615,433	3%	\$223,007,000	3%	5%

- From 2017 to 2022, producers saw notable percentage increases across most major agricultural input categories with the feed expense category being the biggest mover, increasing 15% (adjusted for inflation).
- Prices of most agricultural input categories were pushed higher from 2017 to 2022 by pandemic-induced supply-chain issues and geopolitical instability.
- Although most input expense categories increased, the distribution of agricultural input expenses remained mostly stable from 2017 to 2022.
- Ag Services, Utilities was the only major input expense category to decline (-5%, adjusted for inflation) from 2017 to 2022.

Sources: U.S. Department of Agriculture National Agricultural Statistics Service, 2017 Census of Agriculture and 2022 Census of Agriculture, calculations made by authors, adjusted to 2022 dollars



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Crop Insurance Usage					
	2017		2022		% Change
	#	%	#	%	
Farms Enrolled in Crop Insurance	5,213	12%	4,664	12%	-11%
Acres Enrolled in Crop Insurance	2,616,863	26.3%	2,814,670	28%	8%

- The total number of farms enrolled in crop insurance declined by 11% while total acres enrolled increased by 8% from 2017 to 2022.
- This inverse relationship between farms and acres enrolled in crop insurance can likely be attributed to the shift in acreage towards larger operations that would be more likely to use crop insurance.
- Natural disasters that have impacted Georgia agriculture such as Hurricane Michael were likely also instrumental in motivating producers to enroll more acres in crop insurance programs.

- The number of organic farms steeply declined from 2017 to 2022 by 19%.
- Despite a reduction in total organic farms, reported sales by organic farms surged 65% (inflation-adjusted) from 2017 to 2022.
- The drastic increase in organic farm sales can be partially attributed to the continuing trend of Georgia farms becoming larger and more productive.

Organic Agriculture					
	2017		2022		% Change
	#	%	#	%	
Farms	122	0.3%	99	0.3%	-19%
Sales	\$ 35,808,211	0.4%	\$59,085,000	0.4%	65%

Sources: U.S. Department of Agriculture National Agricultural Statistics Service, 2017 Census of Agriculture and 2022 Census of Agriculture, calculations made by authors, adjusted to 2022 dollars