

- Improved environmental quality, knowledge and policy;
- Improved quality of life for Georgians;
- A well-trained, highly-educated workforce for Georgia's largest industry;
- Attractive opportunities for agribusiness and industries in Georgia; and
- Trained young people who will lead the state in the future.

Making an Impact

We have a cycle of needs assessment, program planning and evaluation that creates a system of checks and balances for all of our programs. We know we are successful when our goals and objectives are met and measurable impact is reported on time and on budgetary target.

County-level needs assessments are conducted annually. The county enlists the support of its local program development team to decide the most appropriate vehicle for measuring community needs. The data collected from the needs assessment is then used for decisions related to local programming.

A statewide needs assessment survey is initiated to collect data from county agents. The data from the statewide survey is analyzed by the state program development team. Based on the data collected, that team recommends future state-level programming to state faculty. As projects and programs are measured, impact is reported and posted to the college's Web site. A sample from each area is attached.

To find out what we are doing across the state, by issue or in your legislative district, go to: <http://www.caes.uga.edu/applications/impactstatements/>

To find out what we are doing by issue area, visit: <http://www.caes.uga.edu/about/hottopics/>

Measuring Progress

We measure our progress throughout the year using program participation reports, program evaluations and required impact reporting. Our systems not only measure how many people attended an activity, but what difference the education they received made in their lives, their businesses or their practices.

Staying on the Cutting Edge

Our needs assessment cycle allows us to determine when a program is no longer needed or when a new program is called for. This constant assessment and evaluation allows us to eliminate outdated programs and stay on the cutting edge of what Georgians need from us.

This effective model of discovery, research and extension has worked for a century to make the U.S. agricultural industry the strongest, most innovative system in the world. It has worked in Georgia to help the state remain one of the nation's leading producers of food and fiber. This system gives Georgia a strong economic foundation, bright promise for future progress, employment growth and prosperity, and a safe and abundant food supply.



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Georgia Agricultural Experiment Stations & Cooperative Extension

Legislative Report 2008 - Summary

The University of Georgia College of Agricultural & Environmental Sciences jointly with the College of Family & Consumer Sciences has three federally mandated parts: teaching, research and extension. Each is equally fundamental to keeping Georgia's largest industry – agriculture – growing, developing and prospering.

At Issue

Keeping agriculture strong is vital to keeping Georgia strong.

- The total food and fiber sector accounts for 708,174 employees — more than any other sector in the Georgia economy.
- Sales of \$92.146 billion rank the total food and fiber sector first among all Georgia economic sectors.
- Food and fiber manufacturing has more employment and output value than any other Georgia manufacturing sector.
- Food and fiber accounts for 14 percent of employment, 13 percent of output, and 9 percent of value added in the Georgia economy. Due to good growing conditions and high commodity prices, Georgia can expect a record farm gate value this year.

- Agriculture in Georgia is expected to continue to grow as farming operations in Florida move northward into South Georgia. It is also becoming increasingly difficult to economically ship food products from California and Arizona to the East Coast.

But, Georgia agriculture faces many challenges, too.

- Agriculture is diverse and decentralized, and has no single entity for research and development.
- The American agricultural industry depends on the land-grant university system for new technologies and advances in production practices.
- Most of the progress in modern agriculture can be traced to new technologies and processes developed by the land-grant university system and commercialized by private companies.
- Staying ahead of the technology curve is critical if the U.S., and Georgia in particular, is to remain competitive.
- Most countries in the world can produce food, fiber and forest products for much less than the U.S. because they have few environmental regulations, low land values, low wages and questionable safety and quality. We will never compete on an equal footing with these countries.
- Our only advantage and ability to remain competitive is to be on the cutting edge of new technology development and implementation. Thus, the need for the Agricultural Experiment Stations to continue to provide new technologies, specific to Georgia, to keep our farmers on that cutting edge has never been greater.

- Agriculture relies almost exclusively on Cooperative Extension to deliver information to each state’s farmers and ranchers.

Demand is outpacing supply.

- A recent assessment of agribusiness workforce demands for Georgia’s future shows that Georgia’s higher education system will only produce 50 percent of the qualified employees needed to meet future demands.
- Faculty in the Agricultural Experiment Stations and Cooperative Extension (“B” budget) help train University of Georgia students. In fact, 96 percent of all teaching faculty in the College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences are partially or fully supported by the “B” budget.
- Without research and extension faculty in the classroom, we would be unable to meet even our current teaching demands, much less double the number of graduates needed to support the future of Georgia agriculture and agribusiness.

A Fundamental Purpose of Government

The Georgia Agricultural Experiment Stations and UGA Cooperative Extension conduct scientific research and provide hands-on education in agriculture, the environment and family and consumer sciences that contribute to:

- increased agricultural productivity;
- providing a safe, abundant, reliable, affordable food supply;
- improving the profitability of Georgia’s agricultural industry, which is the underpinning of the state’s economy and a major supplier of food to the world;

- improving the environment, including soil, water and air quality, to keep the state compliant with federal regulations and to continue to make Georgia a desirable place to live and do business;
- improving the lives of Georgians; and
- providing life skills, leadership and citizenship to the 190,000 youth in the Georgia 4-H program.

Georgia Agricultural Experiment Stations:

- are the research and development unit of Georgia’s agricultural industry;
- conduct research and develop new avenues for growth and expansion that agriculture wouldn’t have access to through any other means;
- are unbiased; and can provide objective, solid, scientific, accessible research to all segments of the industry, without prejudice, and give each Georgia agricultural entity an equal opportunity for sustainability and advancement.

Agricultural Experiment Stations and UGA Cooperative Extension are inextricably intertwined in their mission to serve Georgia.

Cooperative Extension:

- has offices in 157 of Georgia’s 159 counties;
- has faculty across the state who take the research findings from AES and the Colleges of Agricultural & Environmental Sciences and Family & Consumer Sciences, develop educational programs and materials, then deliver that information to the people in the state who need it to be productive;

- reaches more than 2.1 million Georgians through educational programs; and
- teaches leadership, citizenship and life skills through hands-on activities to more than 190,000 young people enrolled in Georgia 4-H.

Federal legislation — the Smith-Lever Act, Hatch Act and Evans-Allen Act — mandates the creation and support of agricultural research and extension agencies in every state.

Good Stewards of Tax-payer Money
The return on the investment made in our agencies is extremely high.

- Every dollar invested in our agencies saves taxpayers dollars in the long run and returns \$3 for every \$1 invested in Georgia counties.
- We can document this ROI though our impact and program reporting systems.
- Dollars invested in these agencies are leveraged with federal, county and private funds to fully fund these agencies.
- For every \$1 of state funds in the AES budget, we generate an additional \$.83 from contracts and grants, federal and other funds.
- For every \$1 invested in Cooperative Extension, we generate \$1.40 in county, federal and other funds.

We Deliver:

- Improved profitability for all segments of Georgia agriculture;
- New products and systems that will keep Georgia agriculture viable, sustainable and globally competitive;