College of Agricultural & Environmental Sciences
UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA

Research Centers

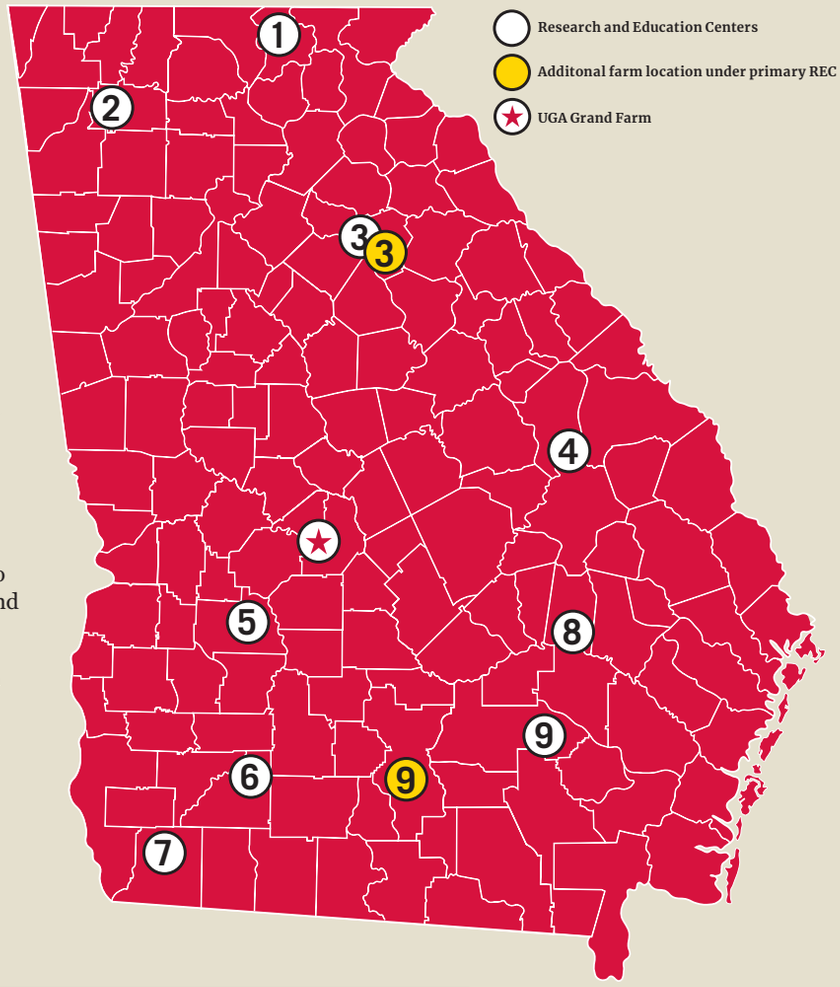
At the University of Georgia College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences (CAES) we are leading the way in agricultural and environmental innovation in order to care for our global ecosystems, enrich our communities and equip the next generation of leaders.

One of the core missions of CAES is to seek, verify and apply knowledge related to agriculture and the environment, and to disseminate this knowledge through student education and public outreach programs.

Our variety of research centers play an integral role by providing CAES faculty and students with the opportunity to conduct experiments across a wide range of environments and production systems.

CAES has nine primary off-campus Research and Education Centers (RECs), two additional farms operating under the REC umbrella, and a pioneering precision agriculture innovation farm.

This research network is vital to Georgia agriculture and collectively allows faculty and students to address local production concerns as well as answering more fundamental research questions and furthering the development of new technologies related to agriculture and natural resources.



Scan the code to learn more about CAES research facilities and better understand how we are dedicated to discovering, teaching and delivering the science required for healthy living to flourish.

① Georgia Mountain Research and Education Center, Blairsville

The Georgia Mountain Research and Education Center is located in the Blue Ridge Mountains of North Georgia. Established in 1930, the 415-acre station helps mountain-region farmers by providing research tailored to the area's unique soils and climate. Located in USDA Zone 7A, it has a 180-day growing season and averages 57 inches of rainfall annually. Current research focuses on apples, grapes, blueberries, corn, soybeans, forage crops, tomatoes, ornamentals, turfgrass and hops. There are public gardens onsite that are open to visitors.

Contact: Ray Covington at raycovington@uga.edu | gamountain.caes.uga.edu

② Northwest Georgia Research and Education Center, Calhoun

The 905-acre Northwest Georgia Research and Education Center supports research on beef cattle, forage and row crops. It is home to the Calhoun Bull Evaluation and Calhoun Heifer Evaluation and Reproductive Development (HERD) programs. The center's research farm is located in Rome, while its offices and the Northwest Georgia Livestock Pavilion are in Calhoun, which also houses the Gordon County Extension Office.

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③ J. Phil Campbell Sr. Research and Education Center, Watkinsville

The 1,700-acre J. Phil Campbell Sr. Research and Education Center, a former USDA-ARS research station, supports research in precision agriculture, beef production, forage breeding, cotton, soybeans, corn, pest management and crop genomics. Located across five units in Oconee and Greene counties, the center develops healthy, sustainable, profitable agricultural systems that support Georgia's farmers, natural resources and rural communities.

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③ J. Phil Campbell Sr. Research and Education Center — Iron Horse, Watkinsville

Named after the famous 12-foot-tall statue created in 1954 by artist Abbott Pattison, the Iron Horse Plant Sciences Farm is located on Georgia Highway 15 near the line for Oconee and Greene counties. Iron Horse is operated under the J. Phil Campbell Sr. Research and Education Center and emcompasses 660 acres of land acquired in 2012 to aid research in the Department of Crop & Soil Sciences and enhance the hands-on experience for students in the college

Contact information: Gabriel Barnhart at gabrielb@uga.edu | Iron Horse Farm is operated under JPC

④ Southeast Georgia Research and Education Center, Midville

The 720-acre Southeast Georgia Research and Education Center, established in 1951 near Midville in Burke County, supports research on cotton, peanuts, corn, soybeans and small grains. Located in one of Georgia's driest regions with only about 44 inches of rain annually, the center focuses on water-use efficiency, crop variety evaluations, pest management and conservation tillage systems. Most research is conducted under irrigation using center-pivot systems, including a dedicated subsurface drip irrigation site.

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⑤ Southwest Georgia Research and Education Center, Plains

The 512-acre Southwest Georgia Research and Education Center, established in 1951 near Plains, was created to help farmers diversify crops and strengthen the rural economy. Located in the upper Coastal Plain, the center's research is tailored to the region's heavy red clay soils, 240-day growing season and 48 inches of annual rainfall. Current projects focus on peanuts, cotton, corn, soybeans, grain sorghum, wheat and canola, with irrigation supporting more than 90% of cropland to help manage frequent droughts.

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⑥ C.M. Stripling Irrigation Research Park, Camilla

The University of Georgia created the Stripling Irrigation Research Park (SIRP) to be an innovative irrigation research and education center. The park is an easily accessible facility to help farmers with irrigation management as well as provide general information to the public regarding the role of water in the regional economy. Scientists, engineers and Extension specialists collaborate with the staff and administration of the park to define crop water needs and improve food, feed and fiber production using efficient irrigation methods.

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⑦ Attapulgus Research and Education Center, Attapulgus

AREC is located in the southwest corner of Georgia, about five miles north of the state line. Established in 1939, the center continues to help support area farmers by researching crops that can be adapted to the sandy coastal plain soil and local weather conditions. Current trials are conducted on major agronomic crops including peanuts, corn, cotton and soybeans and horticultural crops like peaches, sweet corn, and snap beans. Regardless of the crop, the warm, humid climate is ideal for major agricultural insect, weed, nematode and disease problems. This provides a unique setting for UGA researchers to develop novel pest management strategies and tactics, and to screen new crop varieties for pest resistance.

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⑧ Vidalia Onion and Vegetable Research Center, Lyons

Located between Reidsville and Lyons in Toombs County, the Vidalia Onion Research Laboratory was built in 1994 to study storage techniques (cold and controlled atmosphere) and postharvest disorders of Vidalia onions. The facility is administered in five buildings on three acres of land owned by the University of Georgia College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences. The laboratory is presently also used for postharvest studies and short-term storage of other fruits and vegetables. The laboratory houses Department of Horticulture staff members, visiting scientists and student workers

Contact: Christopher Todd Tyson at tysonc@uga.edu | caes.uga.edu/research/places/research-and-education-centers/vidalia-onion

⑨ Blueberry Research and Education Center, Alma

The UGA Blueberry Research and Education Center in Alma represents a partnership between blueberry growers, Bacon County and UGA. The overall footprint is approximately 45 acres, with about 20 acres of blueberries planted, including popular highbush and rabbiteye varieties. It has a variety of equipment, including a mechanical harvester and has multiple acres under frost protection (sprinkler). Located in the heart of the blueberry production region in Southeast Georgia, this farm is critical to emulating the soil type and environmental conditions that are prevalent in the area.

Contact: Jordan Breland at jordan.breland@uga.edu | blueberrybreeding.uga.edu

⑨ Blueberry Research and Education Center, Alapaha

The UGA Blueberry Research Farm in Alapaha was established in 1945 by Dr. W.T. Brightwell. Located around 25 miles east of the UGA Tifton Campus, the 50-acre farm is vital in supporting the emerging blueberry indsutry in the state by continuing to manage active breeeding projects, establishing and releasing new cultivars, and supplying growers with the knowledge and resources they need to be successful. As part of the overall blueberry breeding program at the University of Georgia, the Alapaha farm is managed under the leadership of its companion farm located in Alma.

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★ UGA Grand Farm, Perry

CAES and Grand Farm are creating a regional agricultural innovation ecosystem at a new 250-acre farm near the Georgia National Fairgrounds and Agricenter. Focused on research, education and sustainable agriculture, the site leverages precision agriculture, robotics and data analytics to improve productivity and resource conservation. The farm launched its first field projects in 2025.

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