



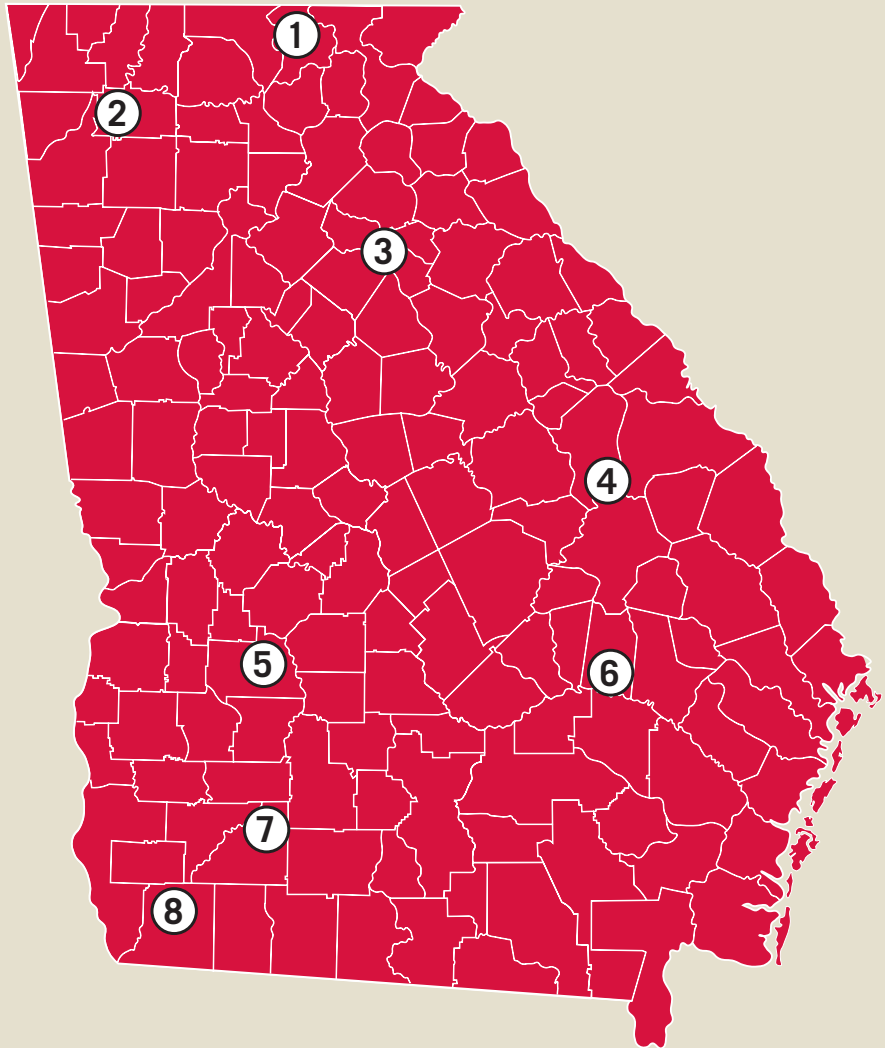
# Research and Education Centers

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.

The CAES Research and Education Centers (RECs) 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 eight off-campus REC facilities located throughout the state. 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.



**Learn more about the CAES REC facilities to better understand how we are dedicated to discovering, teaching and delivering the science required for healthy living to flourish.**

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## Georgia Mountain Research and Education Center, Blairsville

The Georgia Mountain Research and Education Center lies in the uppermost part of the state in the Blue Ridge Mountains. Established in 1930, the 415-acre station helps farmers in the mountain region, giving them information applicable to an area with its own distinct soil and climatic conditions. It resides in USDA Zone 7A, having a shorter growing season than the southern portion of the state at 180 days, and an average rainfall of 57 inches. Current research focuses on commodities including apples, grapes, blueberries, field corn, sweet corn, soybeans, fescue, orchard grass, alfalfa, ryegrass, tomatoes, various ornamentals and beef cattle.

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## Northwest Georgia Research and Education Center, Calhoun

The Northwest Georgia Research and Education Center's 905 acres provide the opportunity to perform valuable research on beef cattle, forage, and row crops. It is also home to the Calhoun Bull Evaluation and the Calhoun Heifer Evaluation and Reproductive Development (HERD) programs. The main center is located in Rome, Georgia, but the office and Northwest Georgia Livestock Pavilion are located in Calhoun. Eight full-time and one part-time employees ensure that the Northwest Georgia Research and Education Center remains a facility that provides quality research opportunities. The Calhoun center also houses the Gordon County Extension Office and other college personnel.

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

The J. Phil Campbell Sr. Research and Education Center is committed to developing environmentally sustainable and profitable agricultural systems. The J. Phil Campbell Sr. Research and Education Center supports research initiatives in precision agriculture, beef production, cool and warm-season forage breeding, cotton production systems, soybean breeding, corn production systems, weed and insect control in these crops, and genomics research in other crops including watermelons, sunflower and bio-energy crops. The J. Phil Campbell Sr. Research and Education Center, headquartered in Watkinsville, Georgia, is the newest REC in the College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences. A former USDA-ARS research station, the 1,700-acre facility consists of five separate units in Oconee and Greene counties. This facility's mission is to facilitate the development and transfer of environmentally sustainable and profitable agricultural systems to landowners and managers in order to protect the natural resource base, build accord with non-agricultural sectors, and support healthy rural economies.

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### 4 Southeast Georgia Research and Education Center, Midville

The Southeast Research and Education Center is located in Burke County near Midville, Georgia, which is situated between Augusta, Macon and Savannah. Established in 1951, the 720-acre facility is part of the upper coastal plain region, located just south of the fall line. The Tifton and Dothan series are the predominant soils in the area and represent well-drained, sandy, loam soils. The area receives about 44 inches of rainfall annually, making it one of the drier regions of the state. As a result, many research projects focus on the efficient use of water. Current research by UGA scientists and Extension agents focuses on row crops and includes cotton, peanuts, corn, soybeans and small grains. Roughly 40 research projects are conducted annually. These include the evaluation of crop varieties, pest management strategies, and conservation tillage practices including cover crop systems. Most experiments are irrigated with center pivot systems. In addition, a 6-acre site is devoted to sub-surface drip irrigation. The center hosts several outreach functions throughout the year, some in collaboration with Burke County Extension.

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### 5 Southwest Georgia Research and Education Center, Plains

The 512-acre Southwest Georgia Research and Education Center is located near Plains, Georgia. Established in 1951, the station's purpose was to stimulate the rural economy by helping area farmers diversify and increase crop yields in the upper coastal plain region. The facility has heavy, red clay soil that is sometimes difficult to farm, but can be highly productive when carefully managed. Research is geared to the 240-day growing season and average annual rainfall of 48 inches. Current research focuses on every major row crop in South Georgia: peanuts, cotton, corn, soybeans, grain sorghum, wheat and canola. The center now has some form of irrigation on at least 90% of the cropland to maintain crops during the area's frequent droughts.

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### 6 Vidalia Onion and Vegetable Research Center, Reidsville

The Vidalia Onion and Vegetable Research Center is located between Reidsville and Lyons in Toombs County on Highways 178 and 147. The facility is administered in five buildings on three acres of land owned by the University of Georgia College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences. Two 11-acre tracts on a long-term lease from the Georgia Forestry Commission provide researchers and staff land to conduct studies and educational demonstrations. The center was established in 1999 primarily to provide research on Vidalia onions, and six to seven acres of research plots are devoted to this crop every year. Researchers have developed a new pumpkin variety here that will enable South Georgia farmers to grow pumpkins commercially for the first time. In addition, fertility studies and variety trials have been conducted in corn, squash, cucumbers and pumpkins. Blackberries, strawberries, carrots, Brassica crops, garlic, shallots and artichokes have also been studied here, along with no-till and organic vegetable production and composting demonstrations.

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### 7 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 in irrigation management as well as to 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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### 8 Attapulcus Research and Education Center, Attapulcus

The Attapulcus Research and Education Center 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 watermelons, peaches and pecans. 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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