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Georgia Department of Economic Development
75 Fifth Street, NW, Suite 1200
Atlanta, Georgia 30308 USA

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Agribusiness



As Georgia's leading industry, agribusiness contributes a \$56.7 billion impact to Georgia's economy. This figure represents 16 percent of the gross state product and 16 percent of the state's employment base. For many years, Georgia has led other states in the production of poultry, pecans, peanuts, eggs, rye and turf grass. Other leading agricultural products in Georgia are pulp and softwood, which are now being converted to bio-fuel. Approximately one in six Georgians works in agriculture, forestry or a related field, and are responsible for the production of these goods.

With its strong ties to the land, Georgia has also positioned itself at the forefront of the industry for agricultural machinery and technology, in order to increase yield, profitability and efficiency of its agricultural industry. In 1792, the cotton gin was

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invented near Savannah to mechanize the production of cotton fiber. Today, the University of Georgia operates the world's most advanced cotton gin research facility.

Additionally, Georgia's Agriculture Innovation Center assists companies in developing progressive industry technologies. The center bridges industry, academic, federal and state authorities to devise new solutions to agribusiness challenges and bolster the state's already significant agricultural and natural resource technology capabilities.





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Georgia's extensive skill and experience in the agribusiness community has led to the addition of numerous other facilities in its agribusiness portfolio. The National Environmentally Sound Production Agriculture Laboratory (NESPAL) addresses the issues of maintaining efficient agricultural production and assuring consumers a safe and affordable food and fiber supply, while protecting our natural resources and the environment. Georgia Tech Research Institute's Agricultural Technology Research Program is a world-class research center for collaborative food processing technology development and is ranked as one of the top 10 programs in the country serving the meat and poultry industries, according to a survey conducted by Meat and Poultry magazine. Georgia's Food Processing Advisory Council (FoodPAC) funds studies dealing with process and product competitiveness, the environment and food safety.

Georgia proudly hosts two trade events to showcase the latest agricultural machinery and technology innovations.

- Held in Atlanta since 1945, the annual International Poultry Expo (IPE) is the world's largest display of equipment, supplies and services used in the production and processing of poultry and eggs. IPE attracts 19,000 visitors from 96 countries.
www.internationalpoultryexposition.org
- The Sunbelt Agricultural Exposition is the largest farm show in the world with field demonstrations. This three-day agricultural technology showcase is annually held the third week of October, in Moultrie.
www.sunbeltexpo.com

The Georgia Department of Agriculture, the oldest state department of agriculture in the nation, further supports the state's agribusiness industry. Its mission encompasses providing excellence in services and regulatory functions, protecting and promoting agriculture and consumer interests and ensuring an abundance of safe food by using state-of-the-art technology and a professional workforce.



Georgia is home to three agricultural colleges: The University of Georgia (UGA), Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College (ABAC) and Fort Valley State. The University of Georgia's College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences is one of the oldest and among the best U.S. colleges of agriculture. In 1914, the UGA Cooperative Extension Service was founded to take research-based agricultural information to Georgia citizens. A Board of Regents study showed that ABAC had an overall annual impact of \$110 million in South Georgia. Fort Valley State University



is the leading source of small ruminant research and extension east of the Mississippi River.

For quality agribusiness products, look no further than Georgia. With its innovative industry approaches, extensively trained community, cutting-edge research and lasting tradition of excellence, Georgia offers the best in the agribusiness industry for today and into the future. ■