

# The Economic Importance of Food and Fiber

**A Spotlight on Habersham County, Georgia**

Prepared for  
Habersham County Cooperative Extension  
December, 2008

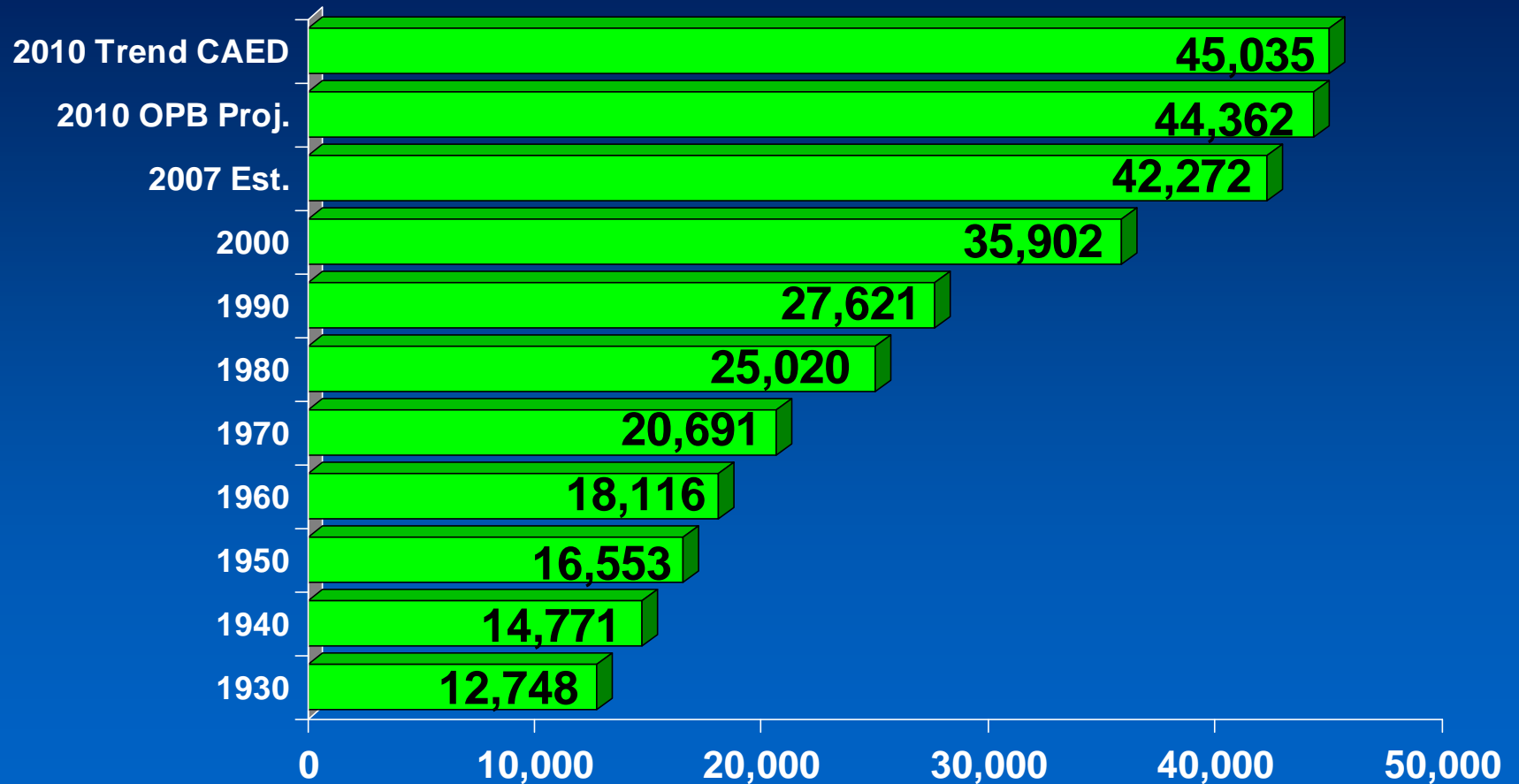
by:

The Center for Agribusiness  
and Economic Development

College of Agricultural  
and Environmental Sciences

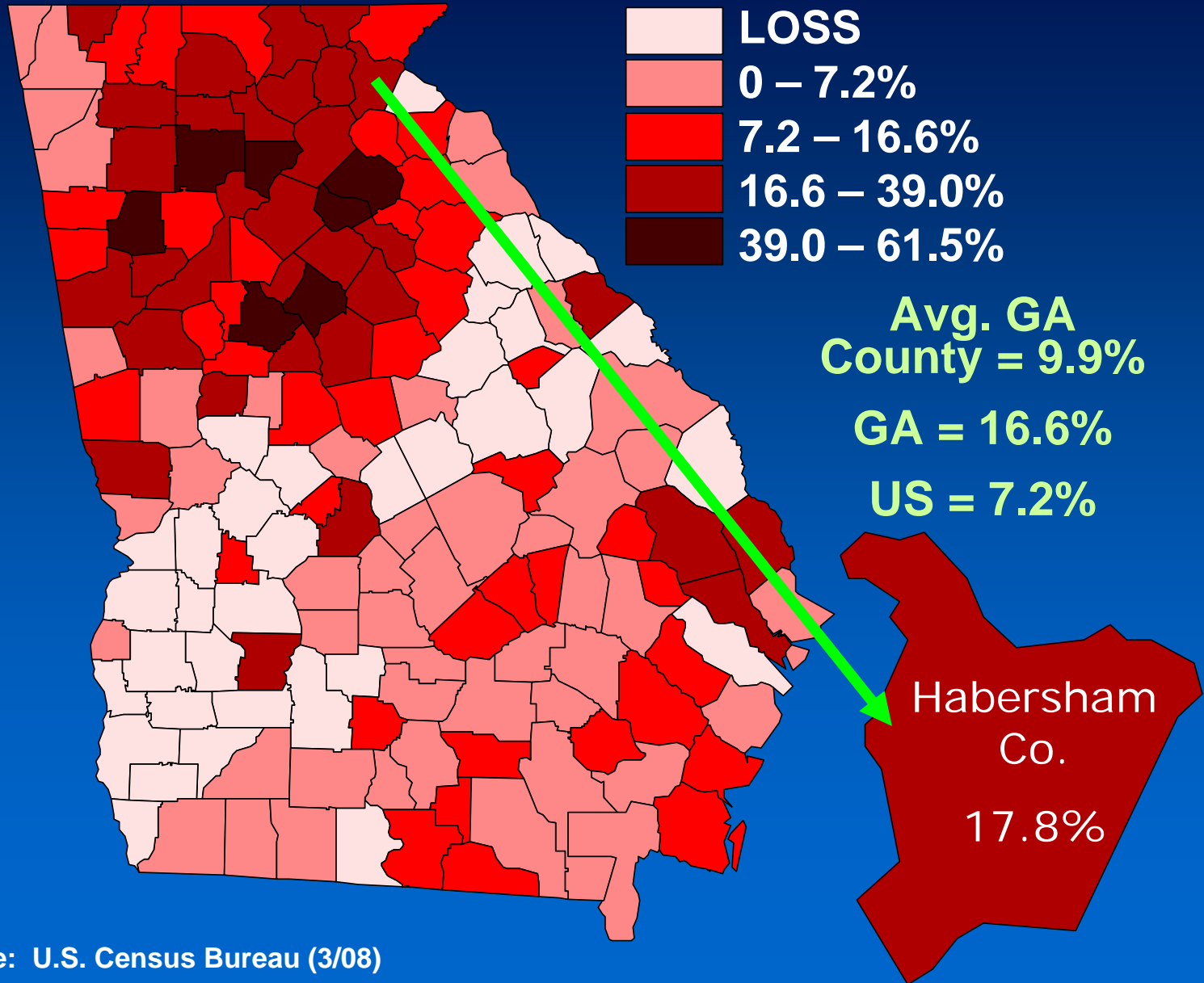
The University of Georgia

# Total Population Habersham County



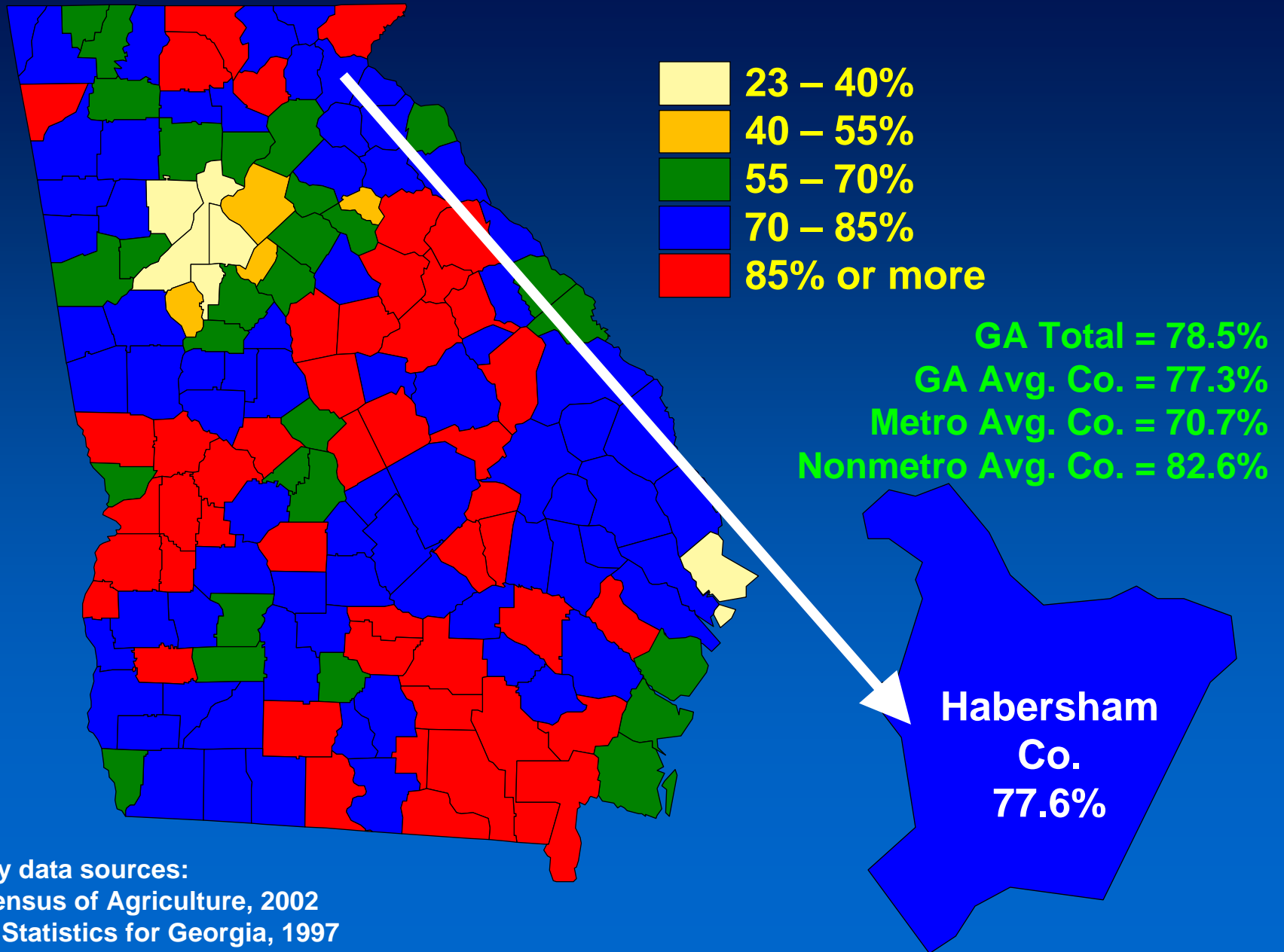
Primary data sources: U.S. Census Bureau, decennial censuses & estimate; OPB (State Office of Planning and Budget) CAED (Center for Agribusiness & Economic Development).

# Population Change: 2000-2007



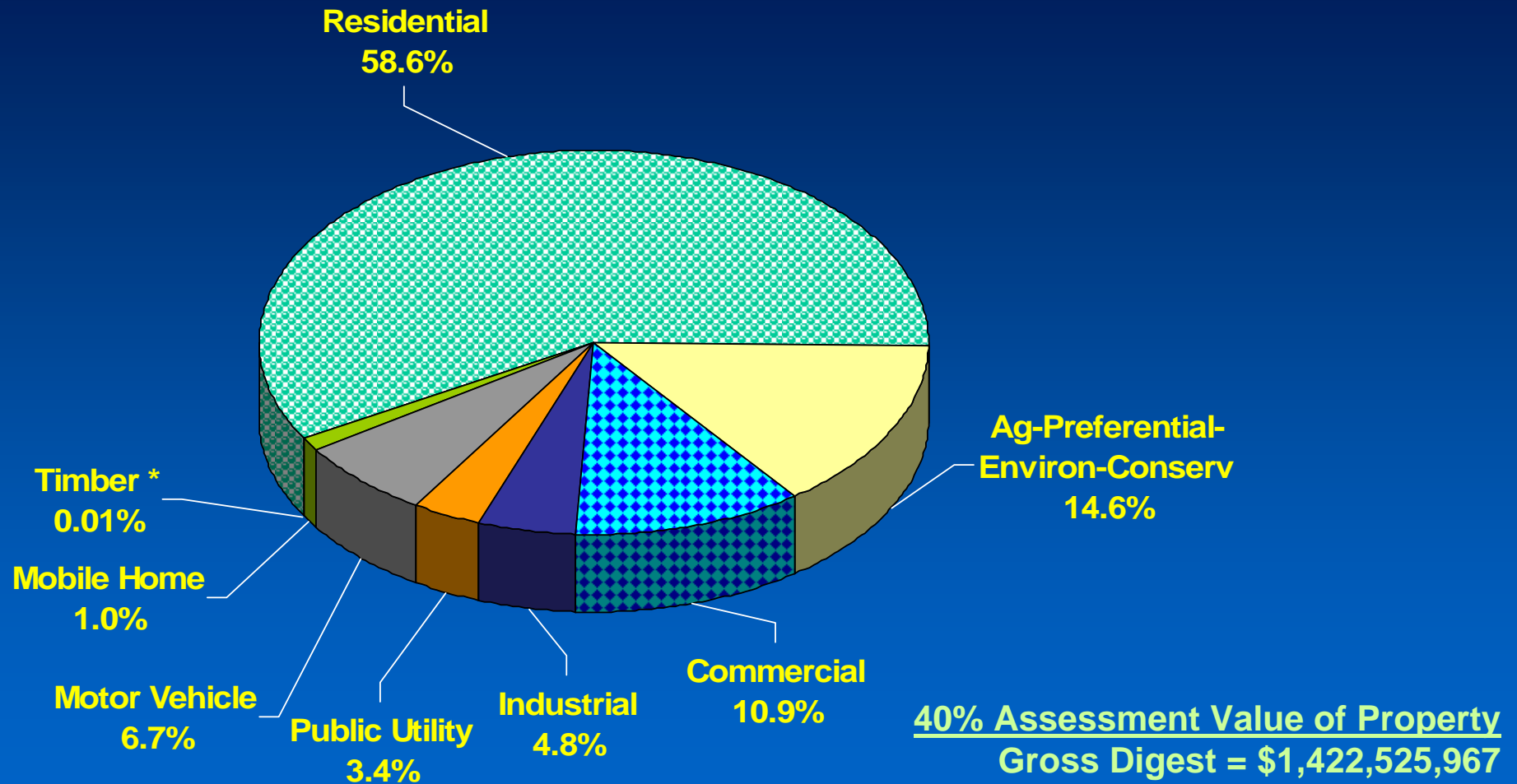
Primary data source: U.S. Census Bureau (3/08)

# Percent of Land in Cropland & Forestland: 2002



Primary data sources:  
U.S. Census of Agriculture, 2002  
Forest Statistics for Georgia, 1997

# Components of 2007 Property Tax Gross Digest Habersham County



40% Assessment Value of Property

Gross Digest = \$1,422,525,967

COUNTY Homestead & Property Exemptions = \$188,283,850

Net M&O Digest = \$1,234,242,117

Value of exempt property = \$149,013,144

Primary data source:  
GA Dept. of Revenue

\* Timber taxed at 100% based on previous year sales

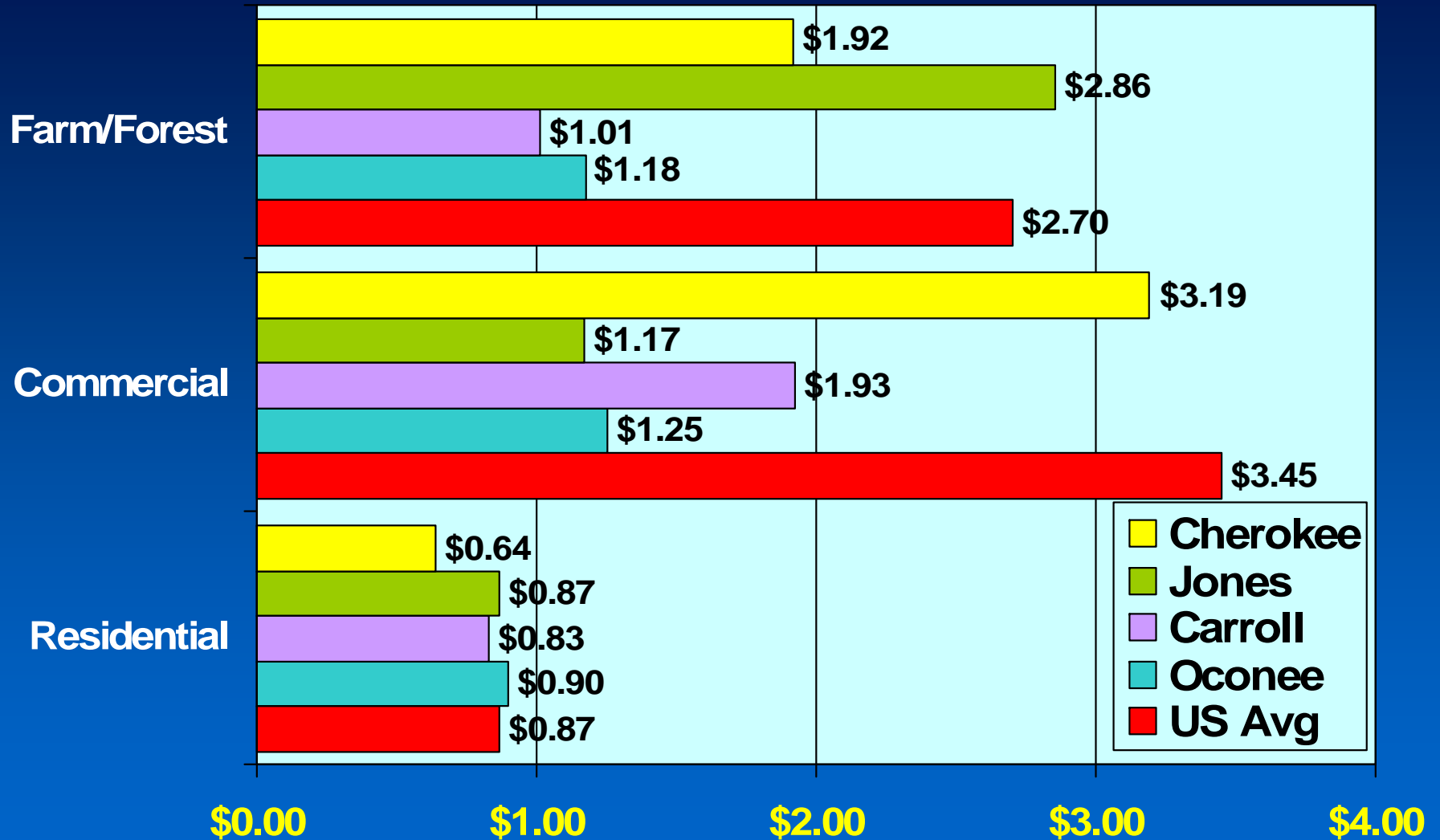
# County Property Tax Digest Comparisons: 2007

County	% Residential	% Agricultural	% Commercial	% Industrial	% Utility	% Motor Veh	% Mobile Home	% Timber
HABERSHAM	58.6	14.6	10.9	4.8	3.4	6.7	1.0	0.01
BANKS	36.6	35.9	12.6	3.6	3.2	6.7	1.2	0.04
HALL	56.3	7.3	16.6	11.3	1.7	6.4	0.4	0.002
RABUN	57.1	6.5	5.7	1.8	25.6	2.9	0.3	0
STEPHENS	56.7	6.4	13.2	11.6	3.7	7.2	1.1	0.05
TOWNS	78.4	8.0	8.1	0.1	1.1	3.8	0.5	0
Avg. GA Co.	42.4	23.8	12.7	7.0	5.0	7.2	1.1	0.9

Primary data source: GA Dept. of Revenue

# Revenue : Expenditure Ratios

## \$ of Revenue for Each \$ of Expenditure



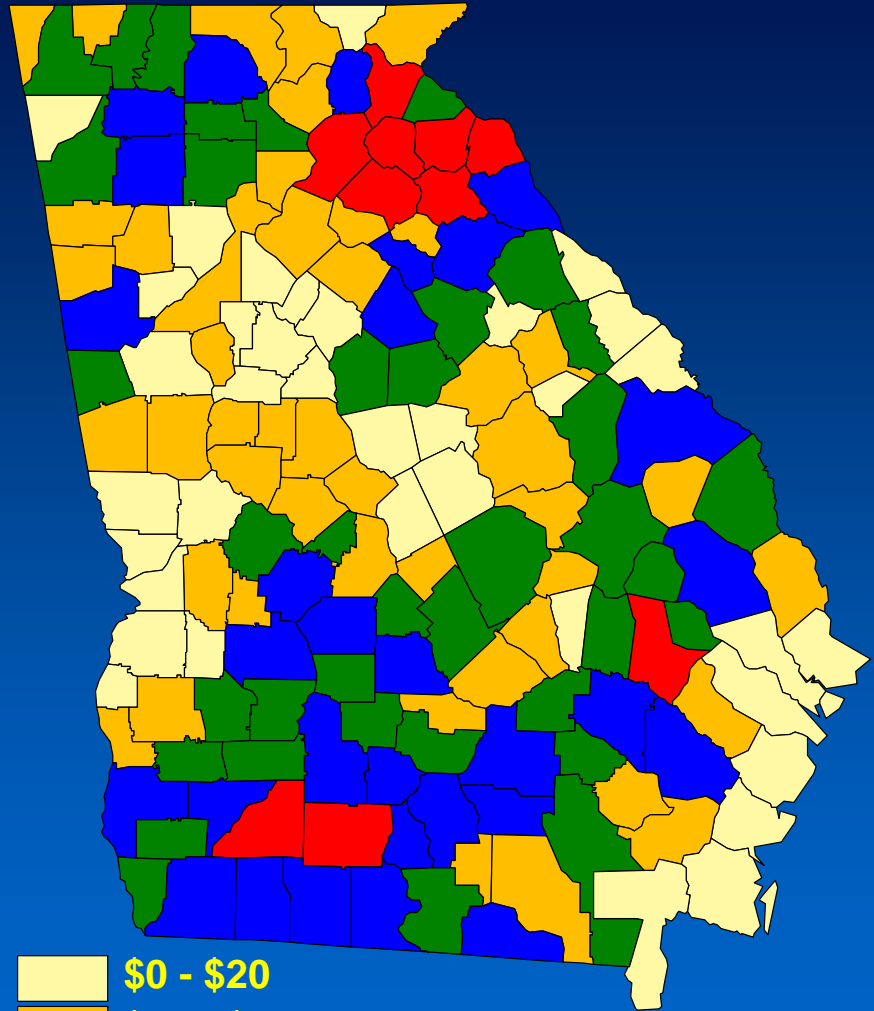
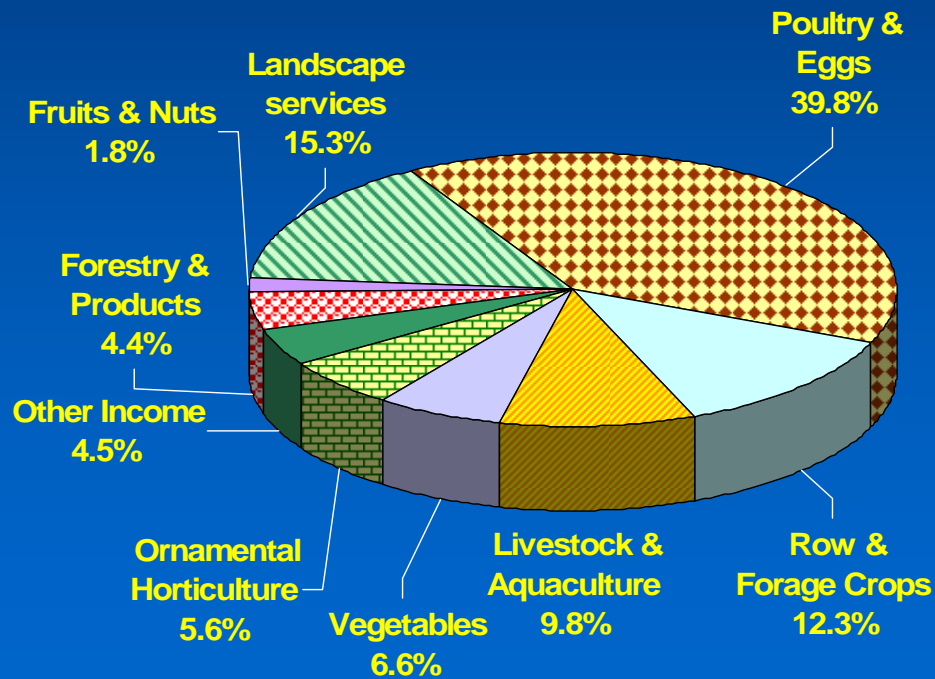
# Agriculture in Georgia

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- Georgia's 2007 Farm Gate Value was \$11.6 billion. Adding the value of landscape services increased the total agricultural production value to \$13.6 billion.
- Total food and fiber production and directly related businesses account for a \$59 billion *output impact* on Georgia's \$735 billion economy.

# Production Agriculture: 2007

Georgia Total  
Agricultural  
Production Value  
\$13.6 Billion



2007 Farm Gate  
Value by County  
in Millions of Dollars

## What We Know about Habersham County

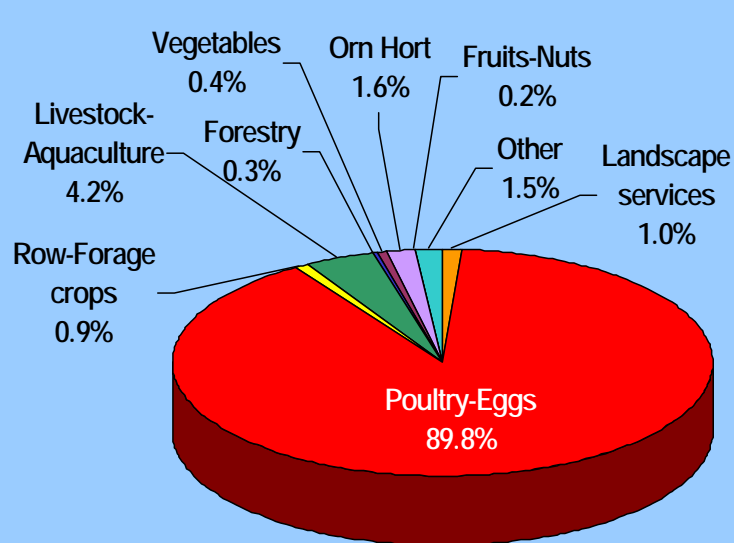
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- 2007 Farm Gate Value in Habersham Co. was \$299 million. Adding \$3 million of landscape services increased the total agricultural production value to \$302 million.
- The highest value commodity group was poultry/eggs, representing 89.8% of the total agricultural production value.

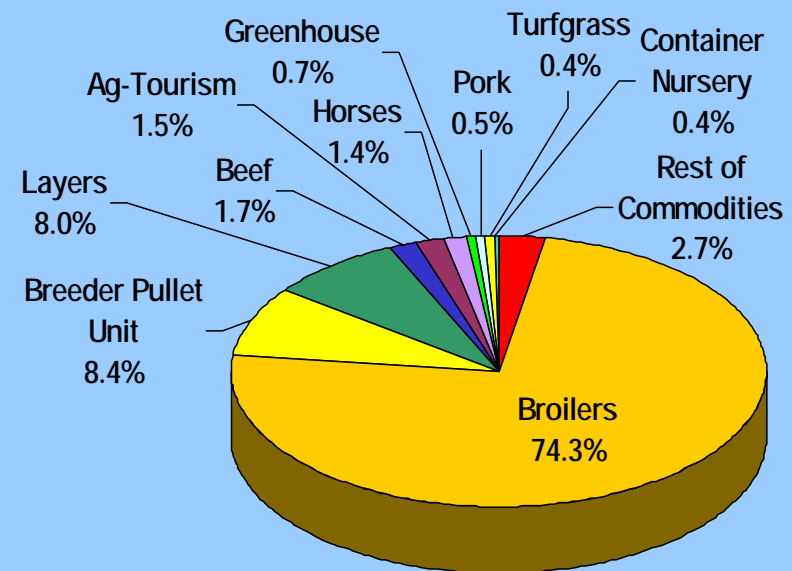
# Habersham County

## 2007 Agricultural Production Value

### 2007 Agricultural Production



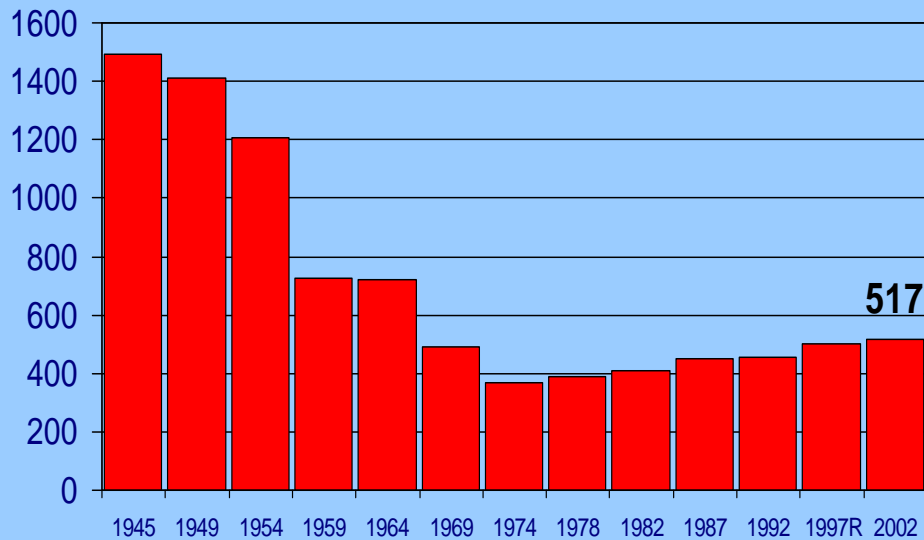
### 2007 Top Farm Gate Commodities



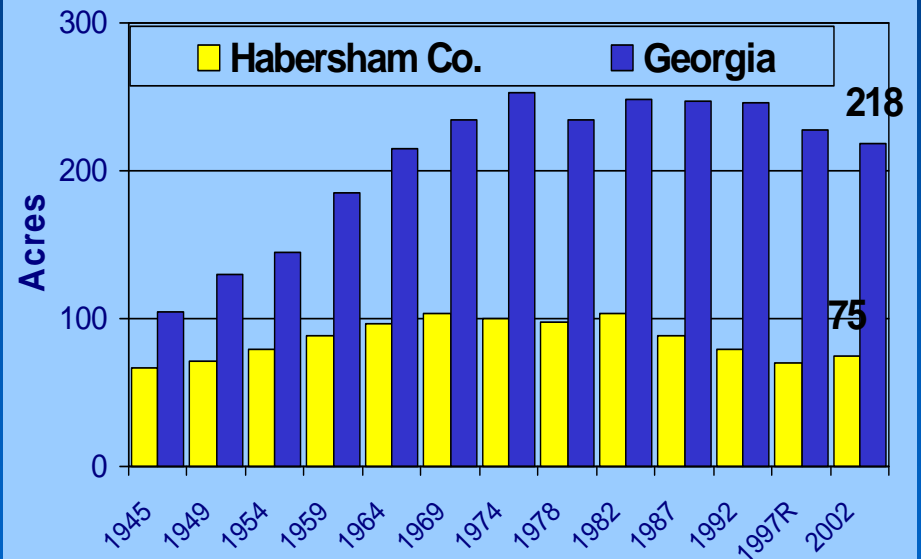
Total AG Value = \$3.05 million

# Trends in Habersham County: Number of Farms & Average Farm Size

Number of Farms, Habersham County



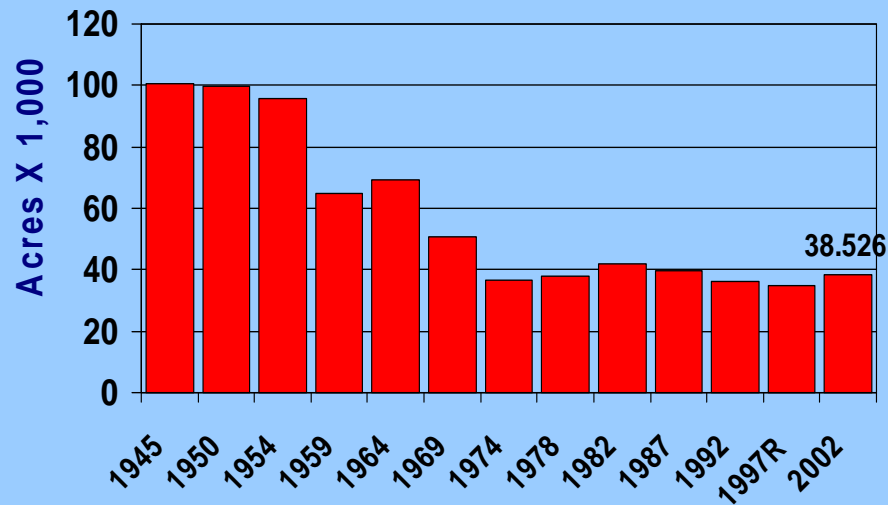
Average Farm Size



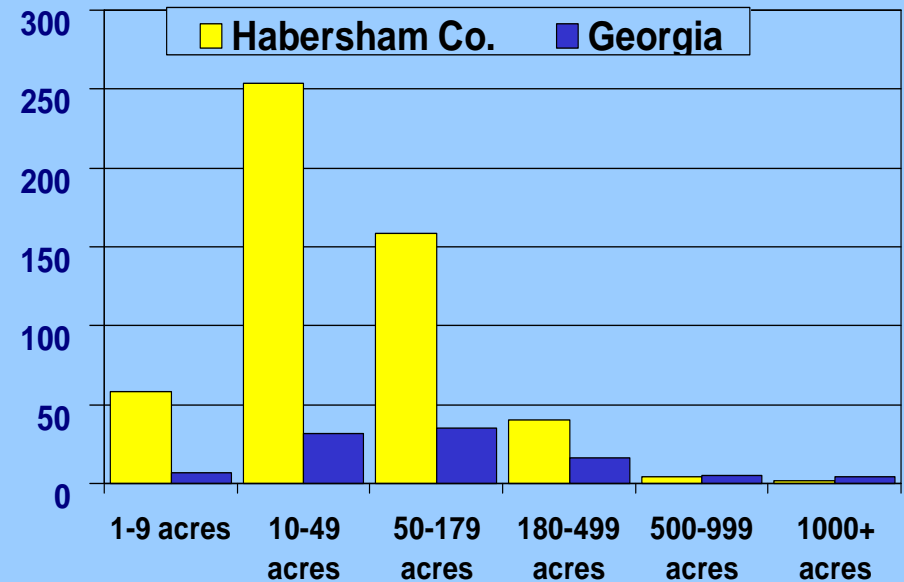
Source: 1945-2002 (quinquennial) Censuses of Agriculture

# Trends in Habersham County: Land in Farms & Farms by Size

Land in Farms  
Habersham County



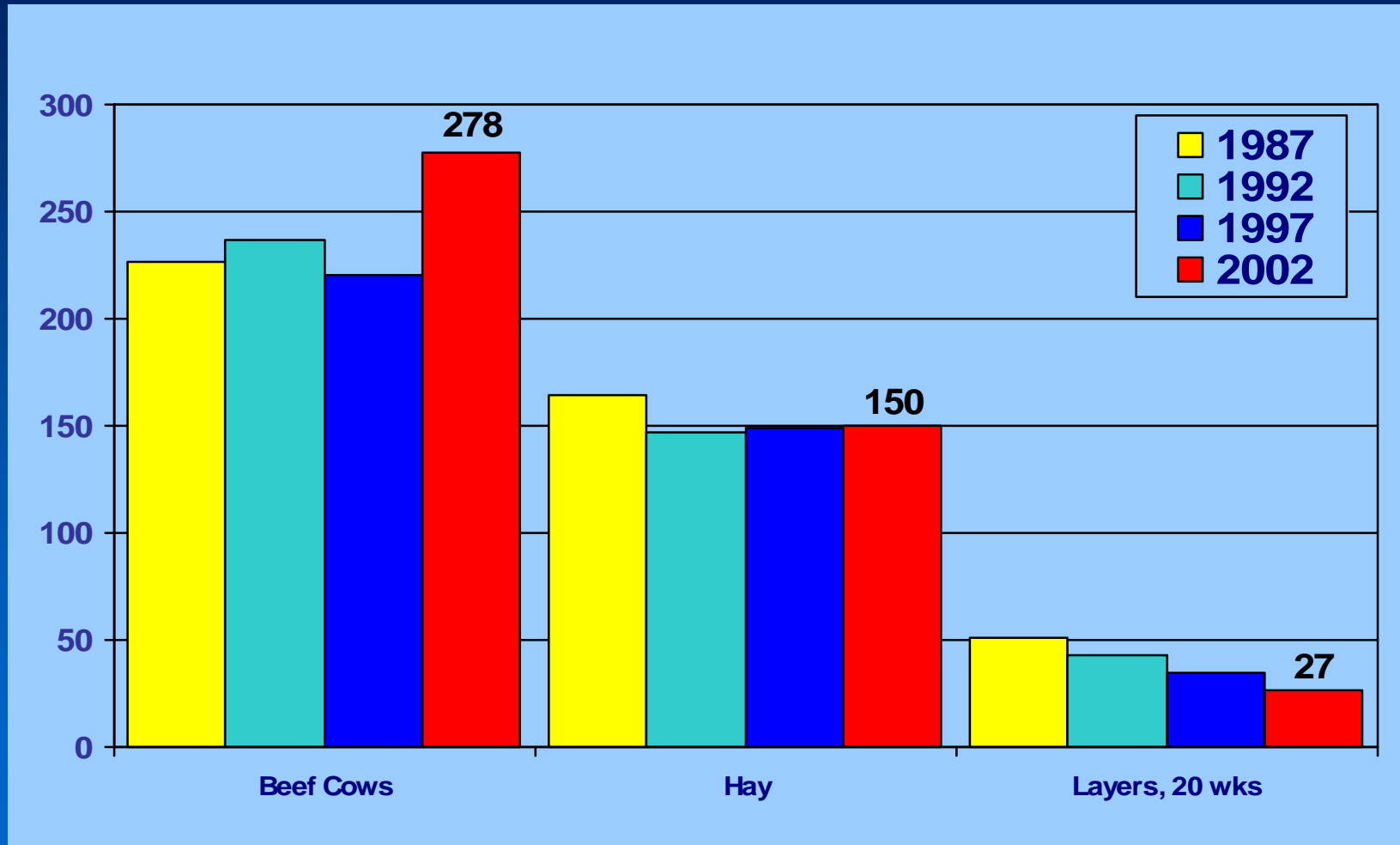
Percent of Farms by Size, 2002



Source: 1945-2002 (quinquennial) Censuses of Agriculture

# Trends in Habersham County

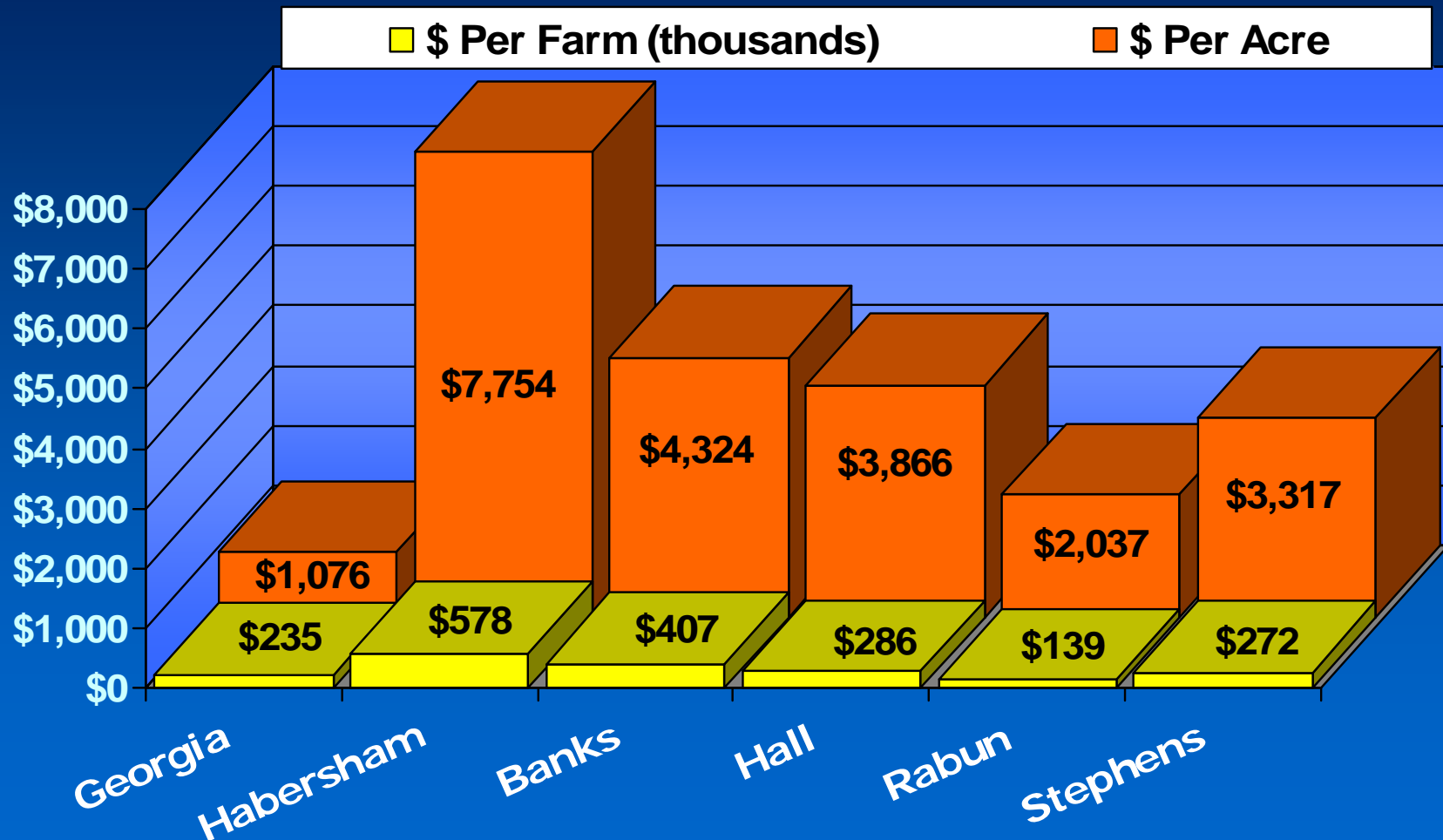
## Number of Farms by Commodity



Source: 1987-2002 (quinquennial) Censuses of Agriculture

# How Do We Compare ?

## Georgia, Habersham and Surrounding Counties Farm Gate Value



Sources: [2002 Census of Agriculture](#) and [2007 Farm Gate Value Report](#)

# What We Did

## County Economy Modeled

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- The Center for Agribusiness and Economic Development performed an analysis of the county's economy, focusing on the role of food and fiber.
- How much of the county's total current economic output comes from food and fiber production and directly related processing? (A Snapshot of the Economy)
- What is the total (direct and indirect) *Impact* of food and fiber production and directly related industries?

# Habersham County Economy

## Agriculture *OUTPUT*

	Output in \$ Millions	Percent
Agriculture	301.788	13.6%
Mining	2.419	0.1%
Construction	126.532	5.7%
Manufacturing	793.657	35.7%
Trans-Utilities-Info	136.522	6.1%
Trade	146.064	6.6%
Finance-Ins-RE	202.085	9.1%
Services	347.751	15.7%
Government	164.945	7.4%

Total County Economic Output = \$2.2 Billion

# Habersham County Economy

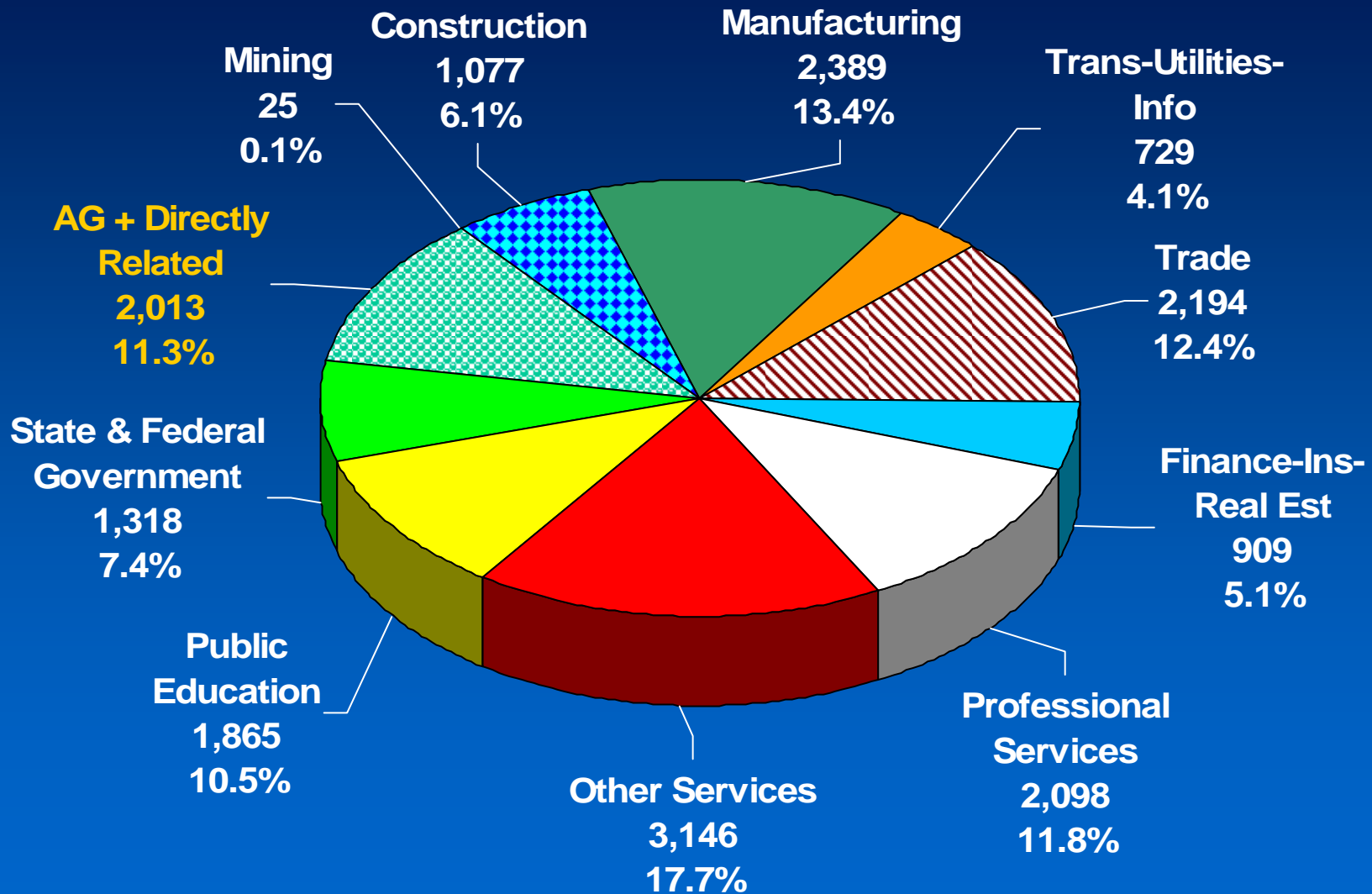
Agriculture + Directly Related Businesses *OUTPUT*

	Output in \$ Millions	Percent
Agriculture + Direct	524.795	23.6%
Mining	2.419	0.1%
Construction	126.532	5.7%
Manufacturing	570.649	25.7%
Trans-Utilities-Info	136.522	6.1%
Trade	146.064	6.6%
Finance-Ins-Real Est	202.085	9.1%
Services	347.751	15.7%
Government	164.945	7.4%

Total County Economic Output = \$2.2 Billion

# Habersham County Employment

Total Jobs = 17,763



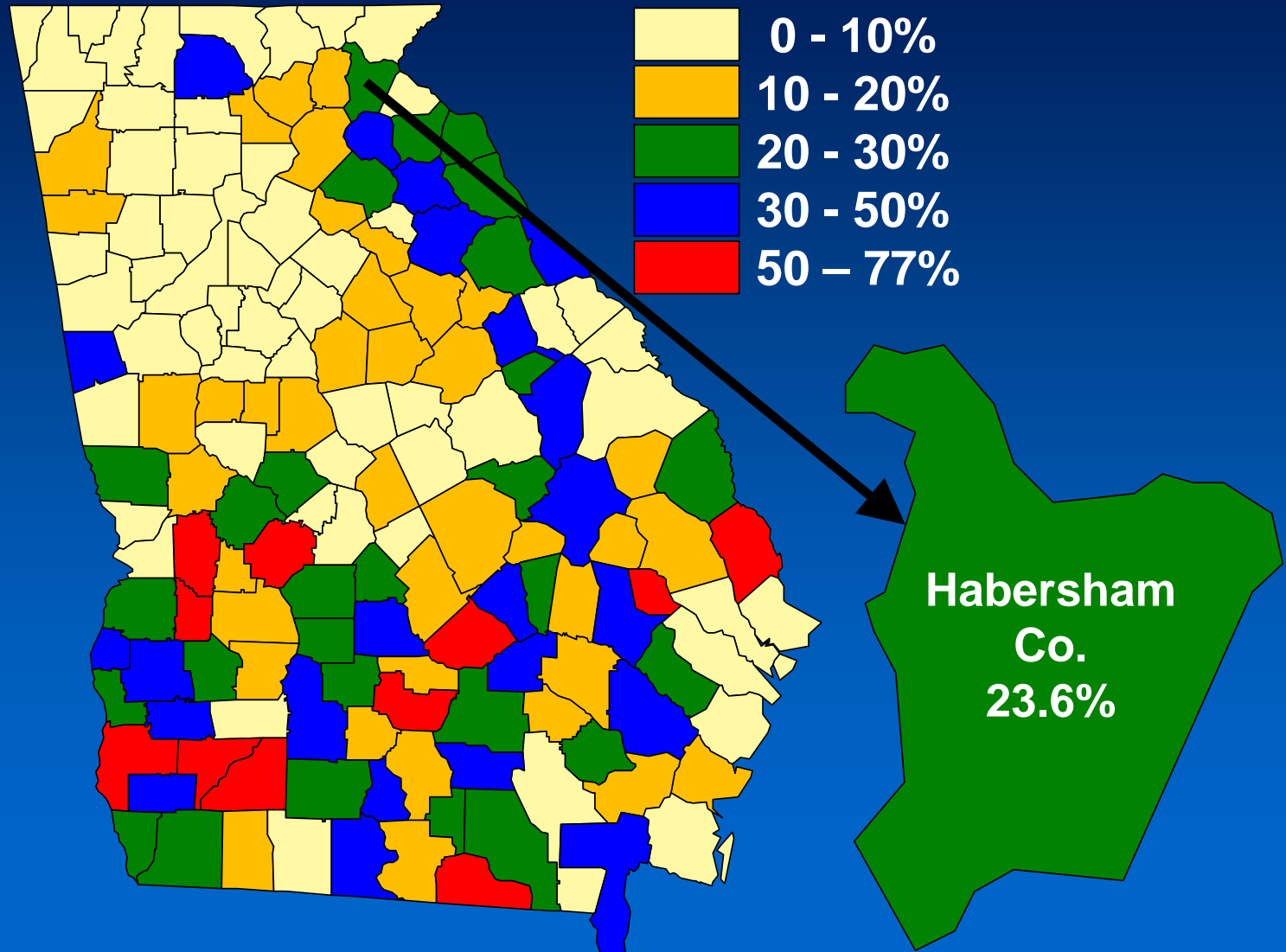
Primary data source: Center for Agribusiness & Economic Development, UGA

# An Economic Snapshot of Habersham County

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- How much of Habersham County's total economic output comes from food and fiber production?
- AG value alone of \$301.8 million consisting of Farm Gate Value and landscape services comprises 13.6% of the county's economy.
- AG plus directly related businesses (ex. poultry processing, sawmills, etc.) comprise 23.6% of the county's economy.

# Food and Fiber Production and Directly Related Manufacturing as % of Total Output



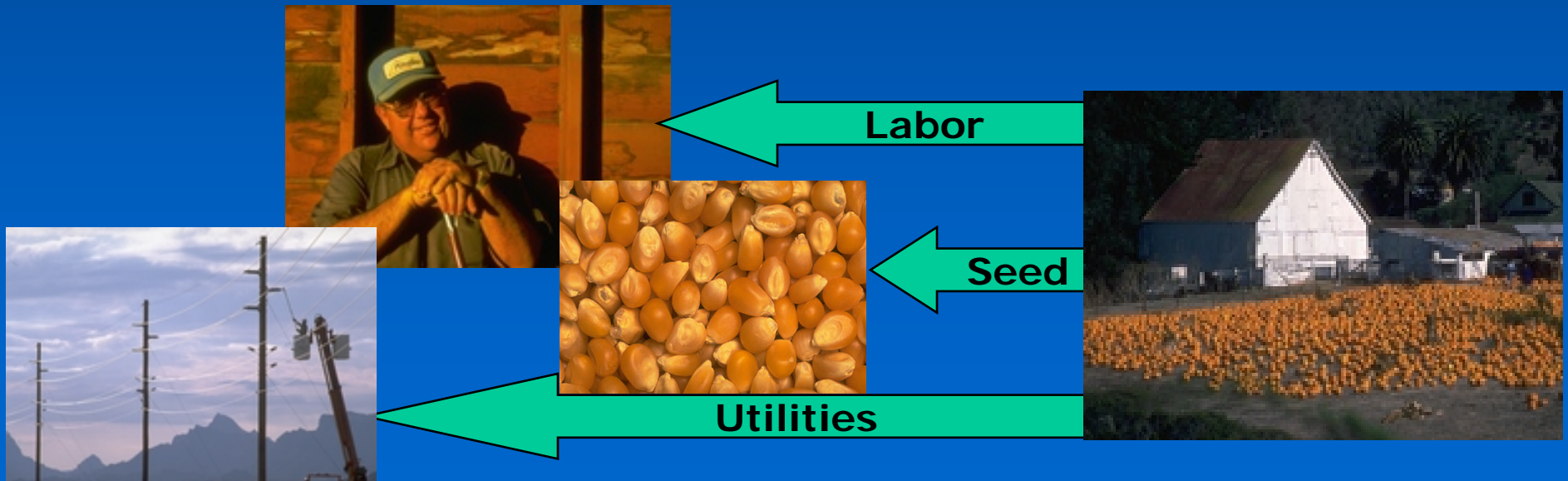
# What is the Impact?

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- What is the total (direct and indirect) *impact* of food and fiber production and directly related industries?
- This scenario illustrates how other industries are affected by the presence of food and fiber in the county. The indirect impacts measure output created due to food and fiber production and processing in the county.

# What Impact Means: A Brief Explanation

- The *impact* numbers capture the ripple effects that food and fiber create in the county's economy. Many other sectors rely in part on the existence of food and fiber for sales.



# Habersham County

## Agriculture *IMPACT*

	Direct \$ Millions	Indirect \$ Millions
Agriculture	301.788	0
Mining	0	0.037
Construction	0	1.349
Manufacturing	0	2.264
Trans-Utilities-Info	0	11.888
Trade	0	6.530
Finance-Ins-Real Est	0	9.681
Services	0	20.870
Government	0	0.771
Total	301.788	53.390

Total Impact of Production AG = \$355.2 million  
16.0% of total economy

# Habersham County

## Production Agriculture + Directly Related Businesses *IMPACT*

	Direct \$ Millions	Indirect \$ Millions
Agriculture + Direct	524.795	0
Mining	0	0.066
Construction	0	2.401
Manufacturing	0	5.270
Trans-Utilities-Info	0	24.393
Trade	0	12.842
Finance-Ins-Real Est	0	19.345
Services	0	44.267
Government	0	1.794
Total	524.795	110.377

Total Impact of AG + Directly Related = \$635.2 million  
28.6% of total economy

# Habersham County

## Production Agriculture + Directly Related Industries Employment *IMPACT*

	<b>Direct</b>	<b>Indirect</b>
Agriculture + Direct	<b>2,013</b>	<b>0</b>
Construction	<b>0</b>	<b>27</b>
Manufacturing	<b>0</b>	<b>25</b>
Trans-Utilities-Info	<b>0</b>	<b>162</b>
Trade	<b>0</b>	<b>172</b>
Finance-Ins-Real Est	<b>0</b>	<b>96</b>
Services	<b>0</b>	<b>603</b>
Government	<b>0</b>	<b>11</b>

**Total Impact of AG + Directly Related Employment = 3,108 Jobs  
17.5% of total employment**

# What These Numbers Mean: A Brief Explanation

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- *Direct* impact is \$524.8 million. This includes food and fiber production, processing and directly related manufacturing.
- *Indirect* impact from the Trade sector is \$12.8 million. This captures the effects of farmers (direct source) buying supplies (seed, fertilizer, work boots) from local stores. These stores must increase their output to meet farmer demand.

# What These Numbers Mean:

## A Brief Explanation (continued)

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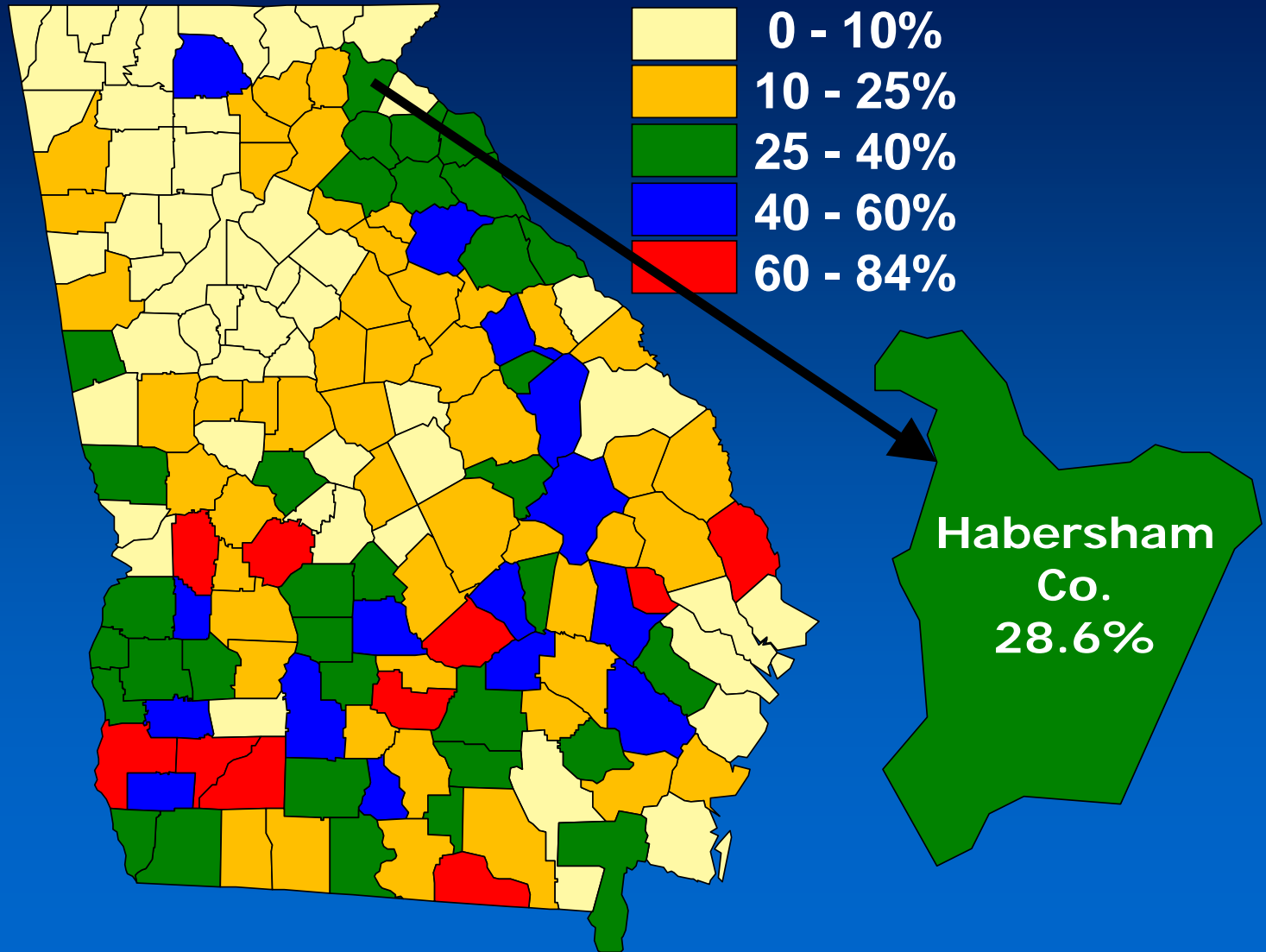
- As local stores increase their output, they may demand more stock from local wholesalers (also in the Trade sector). Local wholesalers demand more from local manufacturers, thus increasing activity in the Manufacturing sector.
- Local stores also hire employees to assist farmers. They take home wages and buy groceries at the local store which increases demand there.

# Habersham County Food and Fiber Impact Conclusions

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- The total *impact* of food and fiber production, processing and direct manufacturing is \$635.2 million.
- The total county *output* is \$2.2 Billion.
- Thus, food and fiber (directly and indirectly) account for 28.6% of the total county output.

# Food and Fiber Production and Directly Related Manufacturing *IMPACT* as % of Total Output



# Contact Information

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Center for Agribusiness & Economic Development

*“Adding Value to Georgia's Agricultural Economy  
Through Research and Extension“*

*To learn more about your county, go to:  
<http://www.caed.uga.edu/>  
...click on “Georgia Statistics System”*

**Special County Area Report  
#08-33A  
December, 2008**

